

Easter Message from our minister

Over the last few weeks, I have spent a good deal of time within Netherlee Primary School. In that time I have been meeting with the whole year groups at a time to speak about the Easter story. In my discussions I recall one of the teacher's stopping me after my speaking and thanking me for asking the kids to stop before eating their Easter Eggs and taking time to reflect upon the Easter Story and its meaning. This teacher was really taken by the challenge to ask the kids to stop and reflect.

The events of Easter lie at the heart of the hope that we hold dear within the Christian Tradition. We reflect in Christ's resurrection upon a God whose nature is one of redeeming love; we see in the raising from the dead a future that is with God and not limited to the years we are blessed with; in the whole life of Jesus we see a means of living that is to be shared with all that they may know joy in this life as well as the next.

In all these convictions we find the meaning of Easter for all of us.

Easter is truly worth celebrating and holding dear within our church.

Yet, each year we can come and go through the services, we can celebrate with friends and family, and we can come out the other end and feel as if we have missed something important. That may be because there are other significant worries upon our minds, or it can be the familiarity of it all, or it can be that there is a great deal going on at work at the moment.

When I worked on Iona, we used to run the programme 'Experiencing Easter'. It began with the high arrival of Jesus on Palm Sunday and carried through all the way until people left on Easter Monday. It was a busy programme, and we sought each time to try and bring the events of Holy Week and Easter to people's immediate experience.

I have many memories of those weeks within my being. I can think of the wonder of sharing communion in Abbey Refectory – our own upper room; I can think of the horror experienced when the cross was raised upon some scaffolding on Good Friday; I can also think of the barrenness of Easter Saturday which seemed to go on forever; I cannot explain the wonder of gathering outside St. Oran's Chapel on Easter Morning in the graveyard of the ancient Kings of Scotland to have someone emerge from the chapel to ask 'Why are you looking for the living amidst the dead?'

Taking the chance to pause and reflect as we can through Holy Week and Easter is not something just for the young ones before they greedily consume their Easter Eggs. It is also an important thing for each of us. So, no matter how busy you are – even if you are enjoying a holiday – it does not take long to think our way through the different events that bring us hope and joy.

So, I challenge you, as I have challenged all our children, take time this Holy Week and Easter to pause and to reflect, always giving our greatest thanks to the God who redeems and saves us each day and especially each Easter.

Happy Easter to you all!

Scott

Holy Week Services

Wednesday 5 April	7pm	Busby Parish Church
Thursday 6 April	7pm	Greenbank Parish Church
Good Friday Pilgrimage	9:00 am	Carmunnock Parish Church
	10:00 am	Busby Parish Church
	11:00 am	Cartsbridge Evangelical Church
	12:00 noon	St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
	1:00 pm	Greenbank Parish Church
	2:00 pm	St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
	3:00 pm	Netherlee and Stamperland Parish Church
Friday 7 April	7pm	Netherlee and Stamperland Parish Church
Sunday 9 April	7. 20 am	Service followed by breakfast. Meet in Linn Park.
	10. 30 am	Easter Day service with communion

Lent Resources

Here is a resource to support your Lenten reflections:

<https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/lent2023/>

Marie Wilson

Holding a Space

Here is Muriel's latest blog.



Rev Muriel Pearson

I have not written anything here in my blog for some time. I recently read in someone else's blog something like this:

'When I'd been here (in Israel) a couple of days I had pages to write. After a week or so, I could write one page. Now I understand how complicated everything is and I can hardly write a word.'

(If you wrote this and are reading it, I'm sorry I can't credit you: I can't remember where I read it!)

But I identify with the truth of it.

I have been here in the Holy Land for more than nine months as Mission Partner for the Church of Scotland and Associate Minister for St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias. 'Hmm,' said one wisecracker, 'long enough to give birth!'

Well, long enough to be thoroughly confused about what it means to be Mission Partner here and how to live faithfully here and be useful.

I represent a very small denomination in a land where the Christian population is tiny and diminishing. I see and hear about the suffering of the Palestinian people, but I also see and hear the fear of the Jewish population who are not all the same and not all treated the same by the State and by their neighbours. I have heard the pride and the anguish of mothers about their children serving in the IDF. I have seen and heard of the violence and humiliation meted out to Palestinians on a daily basis.

I heard the other day of a Palestinian Christian who was walking to work in the Old City of Jerusalem. He came across some Police intimidating and beating up some Palestinian youth aged 13 or 14. He began filming on his phone. And then he became the target. They took his ID and now he is afraid that every time he goes to the old City he will be targeted again. Like many before him he thinks of his family and what kind of future they can have in the face of such injustice.

In recent days both President Herzog and Tor Wennesland, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and leader of the UN Mission, have warned that in the light of proposed changes to the powers of the judiciary, the announced development of more settlements in the West Bank and the danger of collapse of the Palestinian Authority, the State of Israel finds itself in perilous days. In the occupied Palestinian territories, there is the prospect of economic collapse following the pandemic years and systemic failure of government, little possibility for family life, weariness with repeating the same stories of injustice and the world apparently doing nothing.

Every day, it seems, there are deaths and arrests. Every day desperate and suicidal Palestinians, often grieving multiple family members, bring more murder and grief and unleash harsh collective punishment. Is another bloodbath inevitable? And what can I do in the face of such overwhelming darkness?

In some ways the answer is simple (simplistic?) As the church year turns into the season of Lent I am called to follow Jesus on the Way of the Cross. I am called to befriend, accompany, provide hospitality, witness and report.

And while the Israel/Palestine conflict is not an equal one, and hugely unjust, I am still called to hold a space: for refusing polarization, for conversation, for prayer, for dialogue, and holding the whole region in prayer. Amen. So be it.

A Note of Thanks

I would like to thank the choir and congregation for all the Get Well cards and phone calls I received after breaking my hip in a fall. This was greatly appreciated.

Marion Cochran

Cranhill Development Trust

The nearly new shop at Cranhill Development Trust continues to provide a need for some of the folks in that area of Glasgow.

Donations of nearly new clothes and bric-a-brac for this, should be bagged and clearly labelled for Cranhill and left in the cupboard in the Welcome Hall.

If there is no storage space available, could you please let me know and I can get back to you with 'alternative arrangements'.

If any further information or clarification is required, please contact Gordon Lang.

Sunday Readings

If anyone would like to carry out a reading or a welcome on a Sunday during months of May, June, July ,or August could they please contact Marjorie Lang .

The Forum

Jamie Redfern, the director of Women and Children's Services for Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board, addressed the Forum on 20 March. In what turned out to be a wide-ranging but informal conversation, Jamie talked about the role that voluntary organisations play in the provision of vital health services. As he is concerned with women and children's services in particular, the focus of his talk was on how charities monitor and improve the experience of women and children who rely on the NHS for the good of their health and wellbeing. He made it clear that charitable organisations constitute a vital link in the 'feedback loop' that all organisations, and especially the NHS, rely upon to improve the essential services they provide.

Jamie contextualised his talk by explaining the pressures the NHS is under at the moment. Covid-19 is, of course, an ongoing challenge for everyone who works in healthcare. Patients with the virus have to be isolated to prevent the disease from spreading inside hospitals – a necessity that creates all kinds of practical challenges. Moreover, staff absence due to covid often creates sudden and acute workforce shortages that can be hard to mitigate at short notice. The NHS also has to contend with never-ending 'winter' crises, unexpected situations that arise such as the recent Strep A outbreak, lengthy waiting lists, and the 'challenging fiscal environment.' One of the messages of Jamie's talk was that the NHS is under constant pressure to deliver high-quality care in difficult circumstances. He argued that the third sector helps to make sure the NHS meets the challenge consistently.

Modern healthcare professionals often talk of a 'patient-centric' approach to healthcare, and Jamie was no different in that regard. He mentioned the central importance of the patient experience and the role that charitable organisations have in making sure that it continues to be his top priority as the director of women and children's services in Glasgow. There are several benefits to this approach, including improved staff retention, joint public-private investment in healthcare services, continued professional development, reducing health inequality and, perhaps most importantly, accountability. Jamie used the word 'accountability' quite a few times and it became one of his main talking points. Charities are often best placed to realise when the NHS is getting something right, and the first to notice when it is getting something wrong. As Jamie said: "charities tell us when we get things wrong – not all things are great all of the time."

Another key point that Jamie reiterated is that healthcare is changing with the help of technology, and the charitable organisations that he works with – including the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity, Youth Navigators, and Children's Health Scotland – make sure that the needs and rights of patients are not displaced by technological considerations. Academic research and technological innovation will, together, revolutionise healthcare in the next decade, and this creates lots of exciting new possibilities for women and children's services in Glasgow, from virtual medical consultations to employing professional video gamers in hospitals to aid the recovery of sick children. Jamie said that, as well as continuing to do things like raising money to buy new specialist equipment or open new facilities, charities will play an increasingly important role in guaranteeing that technological innovation benefits patients as much as possible. This specific point encapsulated Jamie's main point: charities often given patients a collective voice that he is only too keen to listen to in the interests of providing better care for everyone who uses women and children's services in Glasgow. In partnership with the NHS itself, charitable organisations work to make the standard of care as good as it can possibly be – a vital, ongoing effort that is made in the name of a great human cause.

We are grateful to Jamie for making time to tell us about an important aspect of his job and for joining us for coffee afterwards. We were left in no doubt that third sector organisations have an influence that empowers every patient in Scotland, especially the women and children in Glasgow who rely on the services that Jamie oversees. Jamie's was the final talk of the nineteenth session of the Netherlee and Stamperland Forum. The Forum will return on **Monday 11 September 2023**, and we are looking forward to welcoming as many of you as possible on what will be the twentieth anniversary of the Forum's first meeting.

The Forum Team

The Guild

We had a very enlightening talk on 2nd March learning about the splendid work of the charity CHAS.

For 30 years they have been providing hospice and end of life care to children and their families.

They have two residential Houses for short stay hospice care where children with their families can relax and have fun together. Such is Robin House at Balloch where laughter prevails over sadness.

Another aspect of their work is providing practical help and financial advice to parents ensuring they receive help---a vital part of their work for families in the community.

Diana's Children's Nurses now have a presence in all Children's Hospitals in Scotland.

On 9th March we were interested to learn about the work of the Dementia Dog Charity started in 2012 with four dogs.

Mrs Rankin described how her husband's Dementia dog called Uno had been so good for both of them. His constant attention to her husband's medical and emotional needs created a very strong bond between the three of them.

Since her husband's death Uno has stayed with her and is now known as an activity dog. They go into Care Homes bringing some moments joy to residents. The charity now has ten dogs.

The 16th March was our AGM bringing the Session to a close.

We enjoyed our Friendship lunch at the golf club on Tuesday 21st March and now look forward to Afternoon Tea at Calder's Garden Centre on Thursday 18th May at 3.00 pm

I hope everyone has a good summer ready to return refreshed in the autumn

Margaret Fear

Some thoughts on food waste from Sheena Wurthman

I am grateful to Evelyn Crawford for drawing my attention to a leaflet produced by Waitrose.

Food waste contributes more greenhouse gases than air transport. This is because all the energy and resources used to produce the food is lost/wasted and as it rots in landfill it produces methane - a gas that is more potent than carbon dioxide.

What can we do? Let's keep it simple:

1. Bring your own containers and reduce the amount of packaging.
2. Reduce unnecessary plastics. Avoid black plastic as it can't be recycled.
3. Bring your own bags. This is better than Bags for life. I need to get out my sewing machine to make more totes. (Reduce the fabric in my workroom)

There are lots more things we can do and make a difference particularly eating all the food on the plate and not sending any to the bin!

SE Foodbank report

The foodbank is as busy as ever with new referrals coming all the time. They are always short of basic foodstuffs like tinned tomatoes.

This month they are especially short of UHT milk and coffee. They are also very short of female sanitary items. If anyone can donate any of these items, they would be very welcome. If you would like to donate but cannot manage to attend church on a Sunday, the items can be left behind my door at 35 Deanwood Avenue. The fresh food initiative continues so you can donate cash. As always, the foodbank staff appreciate the donations from Netherlee and Stamperland which helps them to help the less fortunate in society.

Marjorie Lang

Coronation Event Saturday 6 May

If you would like to share the excitement of the Coronation with members and friends of our church then look no further! We are planning to screen the event in the church. Details of the start time are not available yet but we invite you to get there half an hour before the ceremony for coffee. An afternoon tea will be served later in the day. Look out for more details as they are made available.

Marjorie and Barbara