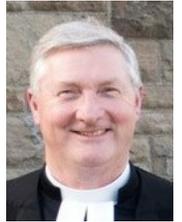


NEWS

SPRING 2020

Dear Parishioner,

As we approach Easter, the world is dealing with a pandemic, a microbe too small to be seen without a microscope has closed schools, sports stadiums and borders, it has affected holidays, the stock market, and international trade; in short it has affected us all, some more seriously than others and surely we pray for those most affected.



If there are any positive things that have come out of this pandemic, perhaps the following are some; we have all been forced to slow down a little and to reassess what are the truly important things in life. We are being encouraged to think more about others than of self; people are being put before profit; and the pursuit of pleasure is being regarded as more of a privilege than as a right.

Easter reminds us of the One who knew all about the important things of life, the One who put others first and considered them as of more value than any treasures of this earth, the One who gave up His rights so that others might have them. Jesus saw that everyone of us was affected by wrong doing (sin is another word for this) and so that we might be spared from the consequences of our wrong doing, He subjected Himself to God's deep eternal justice and was crucified and buried. Thankfully that was not the end, for He conquered death and rose again, so that we might all share in His glorious life. If the Pandemic causes you to reflect on what is important in life, then as Easter approaches, perhaps you might consider the importance to you, of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Keep safe and God bless.

Rev James W. Aitchison

Dear All,

Given the Government advice on social distancing, all Sunday Services have now been cancelled and will resume once the pandemic restrictions have been lifted and it is safe to meet together again.

The Minister has also, reluctantly, taken the decision to cancel the Lent Studies and Book Club for the time being. The current plan is to restart them after the pandemic, with the Minister and Louise kindly offering to continue hosting them at the Manse. Can you all also advise anyone you know who has been attending or may be thinking of attending?

I know that we will all be looking out for our neighbours, family and friends at this time but I would just like to say that, subject to me not being "isolated", if anyone (or you know of anyone) who needs shopping delivered (to their doorstep) or even just a wee phone call for company (if they are happy to provide a telephone number and our Safeguarding officer confirms that I can make such a call), then I am happy to help as far as I can. I have also been checking that my Mum's Facetime has been working so that she has a way to see the family as well as chat. If you have neighbours who maybe could utilise Facetime or Skype or google duo (android) but you think might not know it, maybe help could be offered?

Kind regards,
Hazel
Session Clerk



Tuesday Club were thrilled to receive a visit from some puppies recently. Thanks to Doreen for bringing them in. This prompted some of the children to bring their own pets to visit us at Tuesday Club - thankfully only one pet at a time!

Unfortunately like all other groups, Tuesday Club is now cancelled for the time being. We hope the restrictions don't last too long and that everyone stays safe and well in the meantime.

ABERUTHVEN NEWS

In November the Remembrance Service in the church was well attended and was followed by the wreath laying at the War Memorial and dedication of the Tommy Silhouette which was even busier as the crowd observed the unveiling of the Tommy Silhouette by three primary one pupils from the village, which was a lovely reflection as 100 years ago the War Memorial was unveiled by the youngest pupil in the school. A big thanks to our Village Piper and the Cadets for their attendance. The service ended with Tea and Coffee in the Village Hall. Thanks also to all those who shared their pictures and memories of the Village over the last 100 years.

In December we all enjoyed the Christmas Carol Sing followed by hot mince pies and sleigh driver friendly mulled wine, tea and coffee. The retiring collection was taken for the Aberuthven Village Youth Club.

The Spring programme has now been cancelled on the direction of the Church of Scotland

Organisations and Leaders.

Rainbows.
Kate Leer. Tel. no. 01764 684467
Brownies.
Margaret Jarvis. Tel. no. 07721843786.
Guides.
Julia Sneddon. Tel. no. **07809679747**

Parish Office—Dunning Church Vestry—01764 684732
(Answering Machine—Please leave a message)

Office Bearers

Session Clerk	Hazel Scott	684578
Depute Clerks	Susan Gray (Aberuthven)	664565
	Betty Taylor (Dunning)	684441
	Rosemary Cameron (Dunning)	684792
Beadle	Donald Mailer	01738 259178
Treasurer	Bill Kettles	684393
Safeguarding	Jean Young	684640

Website www.aberdun.org.uk
Minister The Rev. James W. Aitchison
Aberdalgie Manse
Perth
PH2 0QD
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Here's a blustery but sunny shot from our Thinking Day service. It was greatly enjoyed by the girls and the congregation with the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows taking part in the service. Two Guides received their Gold Award which is the highest award in Guiding and replaces the Baden Powell badge.



Earlier in the month Margaret Jarvis, the Brownie leader, received her long service award having given 30 years of service.



Another year has come and gone and I am pleased to say that the Gift Day held in May last year raised the superb sum of £6095. Along with that and the amount received from Gift Aid we were able to balance the day to day running of the Church Books for the year. The total sum was raised not only by donations from Church members but also by villagers of both Aberuthven and Dunning who had no connection to the Church. It is very important to the villages to have a strong Church connection and we are determined to retain and in fact make this stronger.

Whilst we balanced the books we did have to raid our reserves to pay for the removal of St Pauls Church spire and reinstatement of roof tiles. Unfortunately, this work was not covered by insurance. The spire had rotten timbers and was tilting badly and was deemed to be a health and safety issue. The decision was taken to remove the spire completely instead of replacing as this was a far less expensive option. St Pauls Church building is showing its age and basically does need a major upgrade.

The heating system is old and is totally inefficient and costly to run, carpeting needs replaced and it is time to replace the old pews [which have served us for so long] with new chairs making the Church more adaptable for multi-purpose use. We also require to make the Church more accessible for wheelchair users. All of this will require to be paid for and we will manage to utilise some of our reserves and will investigate the possibility of grants as well as arranging fund raising events throughout this year and next.

Thank you to all for supporting the Churches and look forward to your continued support in the years to come.

Bill Kettles
Treasurer