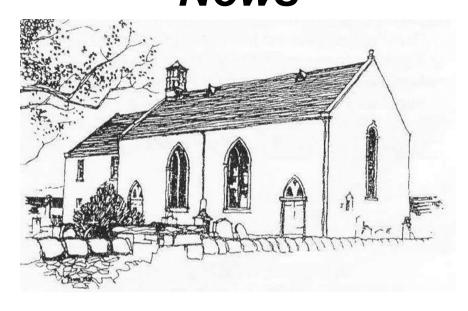
# Fossoway Church News



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Covid 19 Edition May 2020



What a difference a Pandemic makes!

### 8th May 2020

Dear Friends.

it seemed such a long time ago since I last wrote to you all in a newsletter that I checked and it was indeed a long time ago – August last year. So many things have happened since then and we are, of course, living in very changed circumstances now. Back then we were thinking about the children returning to their schools after their summer holidays today we are hoping that our children can return to school before we get to the summer holidays. Then we were looking forward to harvest time and our Harvest Thanksgiving service now we are living with all the constraints of getting food and necessary supplies whilst protecting ourselves and keeping safe through social distancing and wondering when it will be safe to meet in our church once again. Meanwhile we are keeping in touch through phone calls, mail, email, and 'Zoom'.

Back in August I asked you to consider the reading from Ecclestiastes 3:1-8. This is such a familiar reading it represents all the seasons and the important changes of our lives. Some are happy times, others sad; some are productive while others seem wasteful; some inspire peace and others bring pain. This reading talks about the flow of life, the challenges and changes that life brings. Just as the seasons change, our lives are in a constant flux of change. It is the way we adapt and grow through each change that helps us to adapt to the next one. This is what resilience is all about.

I write this on the 75th anniversary of VE Day, a day when we have seen those who survived the Second World War and heard their stories on television. Stories of courage, bravery, loss and pain, stories of resilience and survival. For all of those people, life changed. The era of post-World War Britain was very different to life before the war. There were hard times but prosperity returned and a new 'normal' was achieved. The flow of life is a process of change. There will be an end to the hard times we are living in, life will change and a new normal will come. Through all these times we are assured of our Saviour's presence with us and of his love surrounding us: "remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' (Matt 28:20)

Take care, keep safe

#### God Bless from Rev Lis

#### A New Normal

Every normal was once new.... it did not arrive, but came to be.

Time and tide, call and creativity, all played their part in where we arrived - in this life in God which we called normal.

And what of Christ, our hope, our strength whose normal, once, was family life, learning carpenter's ways? Did he welcome his call and challenge, this change to all he knew?

Did he also feel loss, longing for the familiar, even while bringing life?

And one day our new normal, (still becoming) will also bring new hope new ways to be.

Things will change again and always, for life and faith never stand still. God is making all things new.

Even what is normal....

Lezley Stewart

#### **MONEY NEWS**

The accounts for 2019 were approved by Session and audited by Annika Roberts. No Stated Annual Meeting has been held this year due to the coronavirus outbreak.

For the year Total Offerings came in at £36,995 compared to £36,021 in 2018, a small increase. Tax Recovered came in at £9,123 compared to £8,288 the previous year – the increase due to the sums gift aided from the sponsored walk and David Chisholm's Nepal trip, both from 2018. Other Offerings were down at £405 compared to £1,435 last year which was mainly due to the £655 we received from the felling of trees in the Glebe.

Our Other Income came in at £9,431 compared to £10,465 in 2018. The main difference was in our Regular Fund Raising Events which were £1,155 less than in 2018. Our main fund raising events were the Fossoway Gathering, £814, Harvest Supper, £772, the Christmas Bazaar, £1,223, the Rock Concert, £205, a Strawberry Tea, £195, the Gifting Tree, £377 and a Slide Show, £432.

This gave us Total Income of £55,954 compared to £56,210 in 2018.

Under Expenditure the first section is National Ministry and Mission & Wider Work coming in at £30,254 compared to £29,237 in 2018.

The second section is Local Staffing Costs totalling £7,335 as against £6,310 in 2018, with the Minister's expenses now up to date and the increase in the salary of the Church Officer.

The third section is Building Costs - total £8,948 against £8,906 in 2018 – nothing to report.

The fourth section is Other Local Costs at £7,632 compared to £8,362 in 2018. Office expenses have risen from £467 to £1,500 due to normal and natural fluctuations whist Other expenses are down from £7,720 to £6,132 mainly due to the charge of £1,200 for David Chisholm's Nepal trip which was then gift aided back to us.

This gave us Total Expenditure of £54,171 compared to £52,816 in 2018.

Thus we spent £1,783 less than our income but this does not include the Fabric Fund.

Under the Fabric Fund our only income was the insurance claim of £532 covering a stolen laptop and a broken door. During the year we spent £154 on fire extinguishers, £350 on tree chipping in the Glebe, £478 on a new laptop, £305 on PAT/Electrical testing, £296 on a slate replacement, £3,773 on the new bell system, £187 on vestry furniture and £1,986 on several church doors. The Fabric Fund now stands at £9,167 – in 2018 it as £16,041.

Our reserves with Church Head Office now stands at £9,751. We managed to reduce this fund by ONLY £3,000 in 2019 due to considerable fund raising events and careful book keeping. This is very unlikely to happen again for 2020 where we were already needing to raise at least £10,000 to try and sustain our figures. The coronavirus outbreak is already placing us in a very difficult financial position and our reserves are likely to take a major hit in 2020.

Tom Mechan

'I don't know what tomorrow holds.... but I know who holds tomorrow'

'When you are sorrowful look again in your heart and you shall see that in truth, you are weeping for that which has been your delight'

### **Notes from the Kirk Session**

In these unprecedented times it is difficult to know what to say. A report on Christmas activities seems inconsequential, a look forward to future events is very challenging.

What was Christmas like in our church in 2019?;---- a rock concert which raised the roof, a nativity full of babies, toddlers and young mums as well as all us oldies; a bazaar, recycling gifts, providing lots of baking treats for sale and a wonderful atmosphere with coffee/tea, cake and lots of chat. And not let's forget Jo's hilarious pantomime with a selection of Carols and Christmas songs all rounded off with Eunice's delicious clutie. Great fun, great fellowship and great fundraising.

But what do we have to look forward to? The lambs raise our spirits as they bleat and gambol in the fields. The flowers are blooming beautifully in the gardens and hedgerows - even the dandelions are looking lovely.. We know the seasons will come and go, , but what about our Summer Songs of Praise. Harvest will come and go but how will we raise our grateful thanks of praise? Even Christmas will come again! But how will these important festivals be recognised and celebrated. We will find a way!!

At the moment all that I am really sure about is that, although the church building is closed for daily business, GOD IS NOT.

GOD is here, now, amongst us, carrying us at our lowest, loving us always, supporting us in our hour of need.

Please, I pray dear Lord, touch us all with your grace, your love and your peace. Amen

**Thanks** 

Janet

### Lockdown weekly programme

Monday – Ministers Musings – some thoughts form the Minister

Tuesday – Tunes on Tuesday – a selection of hymns songs

Wednesday – Workshop Wednesday – A Course in Prayer: https://prayercourse.org/sessions/

Thursday – Thoughts on Thursday – a short thought from somebody

Friday – Family focus – a time for a church family- a way to keep in touch

If you have a message you want to be shared send it in please

You may also send me an email that you would like to be sent on to another member of the church. If I have their email address I will send your email to them

if you would like to share a poem, prayer, reflection, Bible verse etc please send it to me and I will send it on to the email contact group there may be topical things e.g. sharing a good book you have read.

Saturday – is a day off!

Sunday – Reflection and Prayer and hymn links etc – from the Minister

Rev Lis

### **Flowering**

There is a hint or promise, O God, in every wilderness;

- a drop of water in every desert,
- a river that flows between all rock.
- a loving word in the hollowest silence,
- a field of flowers where once the dust blew, resurrection amongst the tombstones,

and it comes to those who wait:

a lifetime for some, fed-up with wilderness,

as the ancient Israelites were.

Yet the word came, the promise unfolded, and a banquet of milk and honey was shared.

Creator, for those who endlessly wait for good news:

For healing, for peace, for love

I pray;

and may my own prayer echo for them,

the promise they can no longer hear.

Let it voice in heaven the hope they long for,

Carried on the scent of a meadowful of flowers.

Taken from 'More than Words, 400 Pray Now Daily Devotions' Matthew 6 v v 25 - 34



# This was prepared by our Locum (at the time) The Rev Colin McIntosh. I believe that it is still important and most profound (Ed)

It's Advent.....

Advent varies in length each year but, appropriately, begins this year on 1st December.....

A time of waiting.....hoping.....longing.....yearning for the world at last to become everything God meant it to be.....

That's where the angels come in. Do you believe in angels? I do.

An angel appears to Mary and says, "There's something you need to do. Will you do it?" And Mary says 'Yes'. She says 'Yes' to God.

Let me tell you about a woman called Nadia. I met Nadia some years ago now in Lebanon. She lives in Shatila - at least she did then, and I've often wondered what became of her. Shatila was, and still is, a Palestinian refugee camp on the edge of Beirut. The camp is a slum, covering an area not much bigger than the grounds of Fossoway Church and Waulkmill combined. But some 20,000 refugees are packed into that space. They are not provided with water, have to generate their own electricity, the alleyways between buildings are no more than a metre wide and the residents are banned from all but the most menial jobs in the city.

Nadia was born in that camp and it's the only home she has ever known. Her family once lived in a small village in Palestine but in 1948, shortly after the creation of the state of Israel, soldiers came to that village and killed over a hundred of the men. Her grandfather and one of his sons were among those killed. The rest of the family fled and eventually found themselves in Shatila. They decided that the remaining son should marry his brother's widow, and Nadia was the child of that marriage.

Nadia's only hope for a life would be somehow to escape from the camp. But one day she was approached by an organisation that works in Shatila. It's supported by Christian Aid and runs projects in the camp. They asked Nadia if she would work with the pre-school children there. Children suffer the most. They have witnessed violence and destruction far too often in their young lives, and are deeply afraid. So, in addition to a very basic education, there are projects in drama, art, music and play to enable children to deal with their many problems. Would Nadia help them? They couldn't pay her, and it would mean she would have to stay on in the camp. But would she do it? And Nadia said 'Yes'.

I still remember Nadia telling us that the most important thing they can do for children is to teach them that they are loved. Like Mary, wrapping her child in swaddling clothes and laying him in a manger. Wrapped in swaddling clothes means that the child is cared for, protected, not abandoned, but cherished, wrapped up in love. And it happens in a place where there is no room for them, where there is no hospitality, where there is only cold indifference to the world's suffering.

I think of Nadia every year during Advent when I hear the story of an angel coming to Mary. Angels appear in many guises, and they don't always wear wings. So anyone at any time could ask us that question. "There's something you need to do to help the poor, the vulnerable ones in the world. Will you do it?"

Nadia said 'Yes.' And angels hold their breath to hear what we will say.

https://worldofcamps.org/camp/shatila-camp/

### Colin McIntosh

Peace





### **Fossoway Panto Party Night:**

After a successful Christmas Bazaar and Community Carols the next thing we look forward to on our Church calendar is the Panto Night! Not content to rest on our laurels this year we took on a musical, "The Wizard of Fozz"

Despite prostrations and reservations, when having their arms twisted to take part, our usual motley crew, with a few new and welcome additions, yet again provided us with an evening of fun, laughter and song.

With minimal rehearsal, never once with the full cast, the show opened with a 'sing-along' selection of well know Christmas favourites and readings reflective and comical superbly performed by Gordon Menzies, Martin Grant and Gini Currie.

The Panto saw our intrepid heroine Dorothy and faithful hound Toto blown away to the land of Fozz and, in their search for the way home, encountering Munchkins, a Wicked Witch, Good Fairy, collecting a Scarecrow, Tin Man and cowardly Lion along the way before finally meeting the Wizard of Fozz.

The wicked witch was defeated as Toto barked at her causing the Lion to jump in fright. The startled witch then tripped over the Scarecrows foot, hit her head on the Tin Man, and falling to the floor was seen off by the 'cocked leg' of Toto! With the audience joining in with the well-known songs from the classic musical everyone entered into the spirt of the show and though you may have missed it there was a moral to our tale "believe in yourself and you will find your wishes will come true"

We rounded off the evening with a slice of Eunice's delicious cloutie dumpling and seasonal refreshments in the hall.

Thanks to everyone who took part in the show, you excelled yourselves and the costumes you produced were simply amazing. Special thanks to lan for the backdrops, sound effects, music and lyrics and Isabel and her helpers for the teas, we couldn't have done it without you. **Jo Chisolm** 





### Primary 7 pupils from Fossoway Primary attended a special service to mark

Remembrance Day at the Crook of Devon War Memorial. The service was organised by Fossoway Church and the experience was made especially poignant by the presence of a lone piper, as the children laid crosses. The service provided an excellent context for the children's learning in school, as reflected in the following report about Remembrance Day written by two pupils



### **Lest We Forget**

#### Introduction

### Poppies...war...silence...remembering...why?

Remembrance Day dates all the way back to 1919. The true meaning of Remembrance Day is a time to empathise with the hardship poor soldiers went through. We have to help, remember and respect these courageous servicemen who died for our welfare. Back in the First World War, for one soldier in particular, poppies were the only sign of joy in his unfortunate life.

### John McCrae's Time in Flanders Field

John McCrae, was a young Canadian doctor, who wanted to serve his country. When he was fighting in Ypres, Belgium, he lost a good friend. The sight of devastation was cast over Flanders Fields, yet the greatest survivors...were tiny poppies. In commemoration and respect of his friend he wrote the internationally famous poem "In Flanders Fields". To this day, vibrant red poppies still grow naturally in Flanders.

### Why They are Made

The meaningful poppies are made to help ex-servicemen and their families. The money raised goes towards wheelchairs, accessible cars and houses as well as supporting people to retrain for jobs. Some money also goes directly to the armed forces. They have helped more than 2,500 families with ex-servicemen in them. Volunteers help sell the precious poppies, you can find them locally in schools, shops, factories and hospitals. In 2018 they raised a whopping £50 million in Scotland alone.







### Where They Are Made

Every single poppy in Scotland comes from "Lady Haig's Poppy Factory" which is located in Edinburgh. The factory opened in 1926 because Lady Haig's husband was Douglas Haig, a retired Field-Marshal. When it all began there were only two ex-servicemen creating the poppies with their hands and a pair scissors, nevertheless the business grew and now there are 40 ex-servicemen. However the leaf shape is now cut out by machine but everything else is still done by hand. Every year 5 million poppies are made as well as 10 thousand poppy wreaths.

### 11th of November

On the 11th of November at 11 o'clock there is a two minute silence to remember and commemorate the many soldiers who gave their live for us. The special day is called Remembrance Day, however when it all began it was called Armistice Day. The reason why it is such a special date and time is that it is exactly when the malicious World War One ended. Special ceremonies are held internationally and it is very emotional time.

#### Conclusion

From 1919 to 2019 we still remember, those who sacrificed themselves for their country. These little poppies can make such a powerful impact to those families who have lost loved ones. Many servicemen saved our country so we can help those who survived the treacherous wars by buying a simple poppy.

Written by Anna Mitchell and Holly Smith
P7 Fossoway Primary School
We will never forget them





### Our scarecrows













At a school the children were asked to write a poem for Remembrance Day. An hour later and without any help Joshua Dyer, age 14, produced this:

One Thousand Men Are Walking By Joshua Dyer, 2019

One thousand men are walking

Walking side by side

Singing songs from home

The spirit as their guide

They walk towards the light milord

They walk towards the sun

They smoke and laugh and smile together

No foes to outrun

These men live on forever

In the hearts of those they saved

A nation truly grateful

For the path of peace they paved

They march as friends and comrades

But they do not march for war

Step closer to salvation

A tranquil steady corps

The meadows lit with golden beams

A beacon for the brave

The emerald grass untrampled

A reward for what they gave

They dream of those they left behind

And know they dream of them

Forever in those poppy fields

There walks one thousand men.

Goes to show that the young can still surprise us. Lest we forget!

# **Funerals Conducted**

Kitty McCrone Oct 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 Isobel Whyte Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019 Brian Ogilvie 1st Feb 2020



### Standing on the promises of God

As we strive to navigate uncharted waters, we have as our guide many amazing promises which God has given to His people throughout the centuries. They are just as trustworthy for us to-day as they have been for His children in the past.

Take comfort from the following timeless encouragement from the Bible.

Don't be anxious about anything, but IN EVERY SITUATION

by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,

PRESENT YOUR REQUESTS TO GOD.

And the Peace of God,

which transcends all understanding, will

GUARD YOUR HEARTS & MINDS

in Christ Jesus.
PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. - Jeremiah 29:11 -



I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known

) will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light,

the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.

Isaiah 42:16

#### Revelation 21: 3 "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people."

Lock-down; self-isolation; churches having to close their doors. A time of great challenge indeed, with all agreeing that there is no substitute for joining in worship in a sanctuary. Nevertheless, the church is about people, not about places.

Jesus used hillsides and open spaces as his platform. The current crisis, therefore, provides a great opportunity to find new ways to worship and to keep in touch.

# This is something we all need reminded of from time to time, that despite our limitation, we are, each and every one of us, of value in this world

### You are enough

You are enough.
Whatever you may feel.
In your doubts or your fears,
In your laughter and tears.
Human beings are complex,
a marvel, a wonder
in tangled thoughts and ideas,
In struggles and pain.
There will never be another you again.

You wish you were slimmer, or fitter, or taller You wish you were braver, stronger or cooler. You dislike this and that about who you are, But you are magnificent Just as you are.

Be kind to yourself. Have faith in your dreams. You have magic inside you. You're a unique human being.

When you feel not worthy,
Or useless and unseen,
Remember, I see you,
Your'e not so 'other'
I truly mean,
Just as you are, no more and no less,
With love and acceptance this verse I address
To You - You are loved, you are wanted, you are more than enough.
Breathe in these words when times get tough.

Stu Turner



"And God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come. I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ... Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." (Genesis 9:12-13 and 16)

### **Harvest Supper 2019**

Thursday 24 October saw members of the church and the local farming community gather for our annual Harvest Supper.

With tables beautifully dressed with autumn flowers and leaves, 64 people sat down to enjoy the evening.

Using venison kindly donated by Chic White, our team of fabulous chefs made the most delicious venison casseroles served with new potatoes and peas.

This was followed by a selection of tempting deserts, cheese and biscuits and homemade tablet.

There was plenty of chat and a "Ruffle" helped to raise much-needed funds to support the church.

Musical entertainment was provided by Gracie and Friends and we all sang for our our supper while the band played a selection of well known Scottish songs.

It was a wonderful relaxed evening of fellowship and laughter and our thanks go to Isabel the chefs and all those who worked so hard to make the evening a success.



#### FOSSOWAY WALKERS 2019/2020

This Walking Group goes back the history book to 2000 when Angela Deboer and Morag Wellman, both then members of Fossoway Church Session, started with a Millenium walk around the Crook of Devon. They led the walkers for six years when Kitty McCrone took on the task of leading the enthusiastic group through to 2016 when her illness forced her to retire. This year's programme started in September with our annual visit to South of the Forth where our trio of Sherpas, Catherine, Belinda and Dorothy led us from East Linton, up Traprain Law, picnic lunch at Hailles Castle and returned along the banks of the River Tyne. On October 4th, Kitty died, and our October walk, Glenturret and Lady Mary's Walk, Crieff the following day, gave us the opportunity of reminiscing the happy occasions when we enjoyed her company and leadership. She is a great miss but Colin still takes a keen interest in the group.

In November, Helena and Willie took us along the Union Canal and River Avon at Linlithgow, where the autumnal colours were quite spectacular from the viaduct.

On St Andrew's Day, with a touch of tartan instead of Christmas jumpers, we walked from Dollar to Muckhart Golf Club where an excellent Christmas lunch was served incorporating both Christmas Pudding AND the Haggis.

When we resumed in January, we had walks at Dalgety Bay, Murthly and Kettlehill under the leadership of Fiona and Mary, Mary and David and Jim and Jennifer.

### AND THERE IT ENDED

By the time our April walk was scheduled, the country was in lockdown with Covid-19 and as I write this, we are looking very much as though we may be in the same scenario for at least another couple of weeks. Our May walk and weekend away to Corrie, Isle of Arran, have also been postponed, but in Captain Tom Moore's words, "Tomorrow will be a good day." And so we shall look forward to that day, maybe in September, when we go south of The Forth again, to appreciate more of what we have taken so much for granted all our lives - the freedom to walk.

The Programme for 2019/2020 has ended in disappointment, but we are filled with optimism that our walks at Tentsmuir, Hill of Tarvit and Island of Arran, will be much enjoyed next year.

Average on each walk has been 15 walkers.

Mary and Eunice again thank all our leaders and of course those Walkie Talkers who accompany us.



































**Courtesy of Carrie** 

# And do you remember Christmas??

























### Spring -Summer 2020 Update

#### Dear Friends,

As the restrictions due to the coronavirus continue, here is an update regarding the activities of KYTHE in the last couple of months.

When lockdown was implemented at the end of March 2020, you could have imagined that KYTHE and its youthwork would have stopped. However due to the benefits of technology and the ingenuity of our two youth workers, Barry and Gillian, they have been engaging with the young people of Kinross-shire on a daily basis.

There is a weekly plan with daily drop-ins via Zoom (with baking lessons on Fridays), Music Mondays on Instagram, Tune-up Tuesday on YouTube, Wingnut Wednesday and more. These have proved popular and since the middle of March there have been over 4000 likes/messages/comments/chat participants over the different platforms. Please pray that this continues and grows during the restrictions and in the future as we seek to connect with more people.

We really do hope that we will soon be able to meet with the young people again, but realise that this may not be for a while, so boredom bags (containing puzzles, colouring books, pens, sweets) have been dropped off to many of them (from a safe distance).



The management team and trustees have also tried out the technology available. Our regular monthly meetings continue via Zoom, and the planned KYTHE 2025 Strategic Review has



started but in a different format. A core group will develop the 2025 Strategy, but short twice weekly meetings (via Zoom and facilitated by Drew Drummond) have been filled with discussion, reflection, and consideration of ideas in new exciting ways with all the management committee and trustees able to attend.

The review will take several months as we consult with various stakeholders, so please keep the planning, writing and then the implementation of the KYTHE 2025 Strategic Review in your prayers.

We're excited to announce that our KYTHE website is available. We've still some pages under construction, but it's a great source of information all about KYTHE – our youth workers, volunteers and activities for the young people. Please bookmark this as one of your favourites! <a href="www.kythe.org.uk">www.kythe.org.uk</a>

Best wishes and stay safe,

All at KYTHE



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# CrossReach Information Sheet

### **COVID-19 Emergency Appeal**

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting everyone and frontline care services face unprecedented challenges. The impact of COVID-19 means CrossReach residents can no longer receive visits during this worrying time. Staff are

also under immense pressure as they continue to provide vital support in CrossReach's residential and non -residential services. The organisation has also been hit hard by the suspension of normal fundraising activities due to Coronavirus.



The CrossReach COVID-19 Emergency Appeal has so far raised more than £230,000 to help support the charity through the crisis. To support visit:

www.crossreach.org.uk/news/crossreach-coronavirus-covid-19-

### Digitally connecting thanks to oversees churches

Two overseas churches have donated more than £29,000 to CrossReach's COVID-19 Emergency Appeal. The Evangelical Church of Westphalia in Germany donated £17,596 while the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan has pledged £12,065.

CrossReach has invested heavily in digital technology that will allow care home residents to connect with loved ones and will help to provide staff with the resources needed during the pandemic. These generous gifts are greatly appreciated and will make a real difference.



Read the full story at:

www.crossreach.org.uk/news/overseas-partners-make-generous-gifts-to-crossreach

### **Prayer Points**

May God, in His mercy, sustain everyone struggling with the ongoing measures in place to keep everyone protected from COVID-19 and to provide all that they need at this time. Thank God for the people that support the work of CrossReach by giving of their time in prayer, volunteering and by giving generously to its campaigns.

For a copy of the CrossReach Prayer Diary, visit: www.crossreach.org.uk/resources/prayer-diary

### **Contact Numbers**

Minister: The Rev Lis Stenhouse 01577 842128

Session Clerk: Mrs Janet Harper 01577 840225