

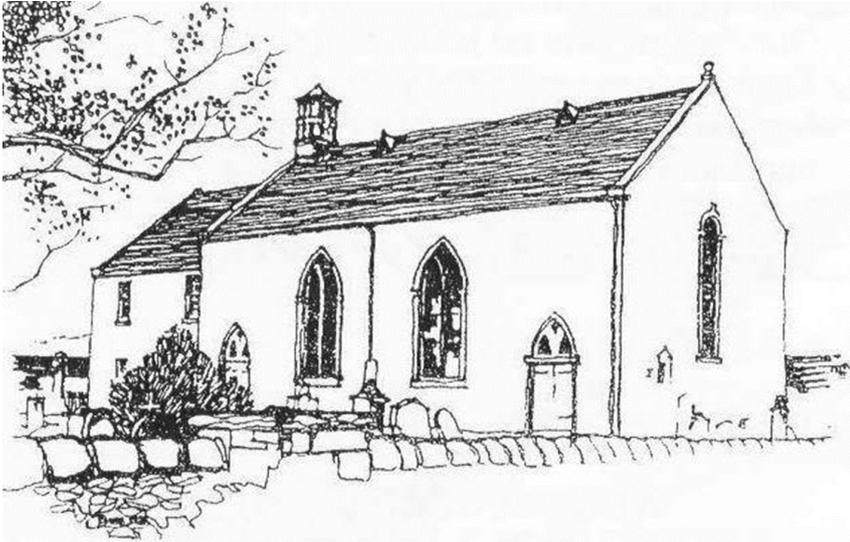
Fossoway Church

News



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Advent Edition

November 2020



Dear Friends,

Christmas is just around the corner, in some ways it seems to have come around very quickly this year. As with everything else due to the pandemic and the current restrictions, we are having to be inventive and creative about how we celebrate this year.

Our church will be open for Sunday worship in Advent and we will also continue to worship through our Zoom services. We are moving the time when we are open for Personal Prayer from a Thursday to a Sunday morning so we will alternate services each week. One week at 10am we will have a time for Personal Prayer in the church and the next there will be a worship service at 10am. Each week we will continue with our Zoom service at 11.30am. You will find the dates and details later in this newsletter.

Unfortunately, there will still be all the usual restrictions in place: on entering the church you will need to provide details for 'Trace and Protect', wear a facemask, sanitize your hands, follow a one way system around the church, sit in a designated seat, remain there for the whole of the service and leave by the designated door.

There will be no singing (but there will be carols), no responses and no pew cushions. The service of worship will therefore be shorter than usual and you will need to pre-book your seat as the numbers of seats are greatly reduced due to social distancing. We do not want to say to anybody at the church door, that:

"There is no room in the inn!"

Having said all of that we will be celebrating Christmas again, just a little differently.

Christ has come! Immanuel is with us! Through all of these worrying times, through all of these restrictions, our Lord is with us and we will celebrate this again this year as we do every year... but just a little differently. Nothing can take away the joy that has been put into our hearts as we celebrate the birth of our Messiah.

"Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,

the Saviour promised long;

let every heart exult with joy

and every voice with song!"

I wish you all a joyous Christmas time
and all God's blessings for 2021.

God bless

Rev Lis



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020



Wreaths and memorials from
Remembrance Sunday



Remembrance Service – Fossoway Primary

Primary 7s at Fossoway Primary were pleased to continue the tradition of visiting the Fossoway Memorial in conjunction with the church, to pay our respects to those who have served our country.

This year each of the children wrote very moving poems, directly to the Fossoway men whose names appear on the memorial. Their poems sought to imagine the person they were and the life they may have lived. The children recited their poems and laid a cross as a mark of respect, with the sounds of a distant piper setting a poignant backdrop to the occasion.

Film clips of all the children reciting their poems can all be viewed by clicking on the following link:

<https://sway.office.com/1uPj0q0o8e75O32J?ref=Link>

Here is an example:

An Ode to James Duncan By Othillie

A stone lays in front of me, names lining it,

I know that every name means something, has a story to tell,

Knowing that every single one of you should be remembered and that you are more than just names,

You are heroes each with memories and stories that should have been shared,

But who were you James Duncan?

What were your stories?

How was your life before the war?

Did you have children or were you as young as sixteen?

Did you have friends by your side?

What was your job in the war?

You went out and fought for our country, but overall, I just ask why?

Why did you go and let them take your life...?

For us ... I know why now you let them take your life for future generations,

For the people that respect you and remember you,

People may say that you're gone now but there are things that can't be forgotten,

You all have stories that should have been told, we all respect you and thank you for fighting for
us

and being so brave when times were hard,

I'm imagining what you look like,

Smiling, happy and proud of yourself,

I imagine that you were the type of person that smiles even when things aren't going well,

Someone that makes everyone laugh,

I imagine you looking smart in your soldier's uniform,

And I won't forget the great thing you and your peers went and did for our country,

James Duncan,

I thank you for everything.

If anyone has more information on any of the men, the Primary 7s at Fossoway would be interested in learning more.

Thank you again to the church for organising this important community event and ensuring those who have served us are not forgotten #lestweforget.



NOTES FROM THE KIRK SESSION OCTOBER 29TH 2020

The main task for this Session Meeting was to finalise dates for December and this information is in the newsletter. Please remember that all seats have to be booked for both a service and a time of prayer.

There is a maximum of 20 seats available. To book your seat please contact Janet on 01577 840225.

Light up Fossoway

I think the posters (page 9) are self-explanatory and hope that lots of people will take part in this.

It would be lovely to walk around a very 'Festive Fossoway' during December, some joyful light in a dark time.

Other events

We are planning a couple of quizzes, one, a nativity trail around Crook and Drum, and a Christmas song anagram sheet (page 8). Both are planned as small fundraisers with small prizes. Nativity quiz sheets can be picked up in the shop or downloaded from Fossoway website and the school and PTA websites.

A copy of the Christmas anagram quiz has gone out with all Christmas cards and is also in the newsletter.

Wishing you joy and peace this Christmas, with the grace and hope that comes from our Lord, Jesus Christ, even in the darkest of days.

Janet



MONEY NEWS

The accounts for the 3rd quarter ending 30 September have been passed to the Kirk Session.

Our Total Offerings are somewhat lower at £24,796 as against the £27,282 of last year. This is down to the Covid factor, although various people are still passing on envelopes to me to ensure their offerings are still counted, with the Open Plate being our biggest loser. Our Other Offering, Donations etc are also right down. Our Other Ordinary General Income is down to £1,302 from £4,926 due to the lack of fundraising and use of our premises.

Overall our income is down to £35,018 from last year's £41,626.

Under Expenditure the first section is National Ministry and Mission and Wider Work coming in at £24,509 as against £24,816 last year.

The second section is Local Staffing Costs totalling £3,586 as against £5,001 last year with the minister's travelling expenses down, as expected, and the fact that we no longer have any need for organists due to lack of church services.

The third section is Building Costs at £6,473 as against £6,178, which costs are fairly similar,

The fourth section is Other Local Costs at £1,583 compared to £2,068. These costs are down as expected due to the Covid factor.

Overall our expenditure is down to £36,151 from last year's £38,063.

Our Overall Position is that at this stage we have spent £1,133 more than we have earned whilst last year we had a surplus of £3,563 – a yearly difference of £4,696.

For the Fabric Fund we have spent £108 on Towel Dispensers and £197 on sanitisers and sundry equipment.

In our General account with church head office we have withdrawn a further £6,000 which reduced our reserves by £3,000 with more to come to meet further commitments later in the year.

Envelopes: Please contact me in the usual way for further envelopes or if you wish to make any further contributions to the welfare of the church.

Tom Mechan





Anagrams of Christmas Songs and Carols

Fill in as many of the answers as you can. Attach a one pound coin with sellotape and hand in to the Fossoway Village Store or Fossoway Primary School by 20th December for your chance to win one of several prizes!

1. Ahoy thickset windstorms
2. Hardy symbolic
3. O beetle twelfth monolith
4. Wold jot theory
5. Ah haul jell
6. Sling the tin
7. Larger handshake lightens
8. Archery overbids symmetry
9. Aerial night wink
10. Into mint weasled
11. Ten geeks whir
12. Rich teams whist
13. I muted brotherly melt
14. Manage rain away
15. Shrunken aristocratic mothered
16. Clash mast stir
17. Bell glen jins
18. Tyrannical doves idiocy
19. The vet handily holy
20. Fazed invalid



Light Up Fossoway

We're inviting all homes and businesses to decorate a street facing window, tree or shrub with a light display during December

WHY? For Fun! But also

- As a sign of hope and joy during the long, dark nights
- To create a festive atmosphere and show our community strength
- To encourage a safe, family/friends stroll around Christmassy streets with puzzles to solve

HOW?

With lots of lights on their own, homemade decorations or a full-on Christmas scene. Be as creative as you like!

Let's make Christmas happen in Fossoway this year!

For further ideas check out windowwanderland.com or [Pinterest](#)

Dear Friends,

It seems hard to believe that our church building has been closed for over 6 months and it is a real shame that all our church and community activities which took place within the building have stopped as well. These activities, film night, Refresh, Toddlers, Harvest supper, to name but a few, provided significant friendship and fellowship for many in our community, not just church members.

The good news is that, as Christians, we are continuing the work of Christ through our living: visiting, phoning, shopping, caring, supporting; **the second commandment of Jesus; loving our neighbour.**

However, it is not just our life style that sets us apart as Christians; it is our worship time together.

Normally our church building is the place we come together for this.

After a few early hiccups our minister, with the help and support of Ian, now hosts a regular Sunday morning service of worship on Zoom, 10.00 – 10.35am and a monthly Communion Service on the last Monday in the month at 7.00pm, also on Zoom. Thanks to Debbie our Bible study sessions continue on a Wednesday evening on WhatsApp where there is a group text conversation, after which there is an appropriate teaching video to watch in your own home. Please contact Debbie, 842268, if you would like more details about this.

On Thursday, Sep 17th our church 'opened' for a 20-minute session of personal prayer and reflection. As things stand at the moment this will continue on a Thursday from 2.30 – 2.50pm. I commend this opportunity to you if you feel able to attend

Thanks to David, Heather and others, our building is being well maintained, cleaned and sanitised. As far as we can make it, this is a safe place to be.

Unfortunately, all of this costs money. At present our annual ministry and mission payment is £29700. This goes towards the cost of ministerial salaries, and the work of the wider church. Also, there is an annual payment to Presbytery of £749

We also incur costs to keep our building well maintained and safe. We have a mandatory electrical inspection due, £2500, and an insurance bill of just over £1500.

Other costs include: council tax, heating and lighting, manse maintenance, to name but a few.

These costs are normally covered by our weekly offerings, donations, income from groups using the church and fundraising.

There is a little money coming in from those whose offerings are paid by standing order and from some who pass their normal weekly offering to our treasurer.

There is no income from groups using the church, no special fund raising events, and no open plate.

Tom, our treasurer, projected that for 2020 we would need to fundraise £10,000 to balance our books. Fundraising activities were being considered but obviously these have not been possible.

Our costs have been reduced but this is minimal.

This means that by the end of the year we could have an empty bank account.

We do need income. We need to keep our beautiful church building ready to welcome everyone home when conditions allow.

There are a couple of activities planned for Christmas but these will not be real fundraisers

Usually when you give money to the church you get something in return: entertainment, maybe a Rock Concert, a Fashion Show, a photography evening, a film; food and fellowship through Refresh, a Harvest Supper, after church cup of tea; music from the choir, Community Carols, ceilidh music or a concert; a bargain from the bazaar. There are many other ways too.

None of these things can happen at the moment.

So, we invite you to make a donation to keep our building ready, ready to welcome all when the time is appropriate, ready to come together as the body of Christ, ready to worship our Lord prayerfully and joyfully, maybe even singing through the rooftop.

Please, please, please make a donation if you can by contacting Tom, our treasurer, on 840643 or you could put a donation straight into the Church bank account at

Bank of Scotland

Sort Code 80-16-79

Account; Fossoway St Serf's & Devonside Church

A/C No; 00149061

If you are able, please download and complete a Gift Aid Form from our new website:

<https://cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk/fossoway-church/church-information/> This would a great help as well.

In the meantime may you feel the love and grace of Christ around you.

Stay safe, take care

Janet

on behalf of your Minister and Kirk Session

Comment from the Minister : Things change so rapidly at the moment that it is difficult to keep up, so some information in this letter, that was sent out earlier in the year, is already out of date. Please see the current information about services on page 15.

Contact Numbers

Minister: The Rev Lis Stenhouse 01577 842128

Session Clerk: Mrs Janet Harper 01577 840225

A reflective poem by Joanne Chisolm

CHRISTMAS 2020

As we prepare for Christmas
In this very different year
Our lives have all been altered
And freedom swapped for fear.

Wear a mask and keep your distance
Wash your hands and stay away
When you long to hug a loved one
Have your relatives to stay.

Trapped within our own four walls
Shopping bought online
Meeting in the garden
For a guilty glass of wine.

Perhaps you've lost a loved one
Unable to be there
No hand to hold, no brow to sooth
No way to show you care.

The elderly are shielded
Staying home alone
No social interaction
Relying on the phone.

Job lost, furloughed, working from home?
We've had to find a way
To keep the country moving
And all the bills to pay

The novelty of missing school
Quickly lost its charm
Online learning with no friends
Will do our young ones harm.

Social life reduced to walks
Or meeting in the park
Manageable in the summer
But in the winters dark?

Churches, mosques and temples
Theatres, meeting room
Closed and silently waiting
We worship now by Zoom.

We used to clap for carers
Support the NHS
As they fought to help their patients
And lessen their distress

We did not know that six months on
There'd be no end in sight
The R rate sharply rising
So continue with the fight

We took little things for granted
That now we really miss
Singing, dancing, meeting friends
Even grandma's sloppy kiss.

The news is full of gloom and doom
Strife and accusation
Hungry children, who's to blame
It's tearing up our nation

The daily round of tragic news
And the numbers of infected
The latest total of the dead
Is it better than expected?

How can we find the positive?
When will this ever end ?
Will the 'new normal' last forever?
Will the heartache ever mend?

Christmas should be a time of hope
The season of goodwill
Carols, trees, and festive food
Not worrying who's ill

God give us strength to carry on
And help us do what's right
May this virus make us stronger
And turn our dark to light.



Funerals Conducted

Arthur Wallace - 9th October 2020



In Loving Memory



Do you know this guy?

He's having a birthday soon and a lot of my friends are marking it.

If you are marking it, enjoy the celebration and think a bit about the kind of guy he was....

He had impressive ancestry, but was born under suspicious circumstances into a working class family.

Lived in an occupied country, run by an insecure, ruthless puppet governor.

Was a child refugee in a foreign country, yet became a precocious student.

Followed an activist who was jailed and executed.

Achieved insight through mediation, discipline and self denial.

Refused to be tempted by consumerism, lived on the road, advocated a simple lifestyle.

Went by foot or used inexpensive, shared transport.

Loved and admired by his friends, he could attract a crowd and hold their attention

Demonstrated how sharing creates abundance, had a healing touch.

Protested the abuse of women, loved his friends, was good with kids.

Partied with disreputable riff raff, unflinching advocate of poor folk and the down and out.

Told great stories, delegated well to his team, calmed troubled waters.

Prized humility, peace-making, probity, transparency and generosity

Respected tradition and decried its perversion and corruption. Paid his taxes.

Overcame ethnic bias, accepted outsiders and foreigners.

Opposed oppressive legislation and legalism, saddle burr of the rich and powerful.

Blew the whistle on hypocrisy, upset the high and mighty. Could hold his own in an argument.

Betrayed by a trusted friend for cash, condemned by a kangaroo court, tortured and executed as a political prisoner.

Down for the count of three, he made a comeback and lives on in those who share his spirit.

With thanks to George F Simons 2013

**Fossoway St Serf's and Devonside Parish Church
Services for December 2020 and January 2021**

We are pleased to say that we will be re-opening our church building on Sunday mornings from 29th November 2020. Due to the current Covid pandemic restrictions we only have limited seating. So if you would like to attend church on any Sunday you will need to **pre-book your seat by phoning Mrs Janet Harper 01577 840225**

Please be advised that due to government guidelines, on entering the church you will need to provide details for 'Trace and Protect', wear a facemask, sanitize your hands, follow a one way system around the church, sit in a designated seat, remain there for the whole of the service and leave by the designated door. There will be no singing, no responses and no pew cushions. The service of worship will therefore be shorter than usual.

Thurs 26th Nov 7pm Celebration of Holy Communion

Sunday 29th Nov 10am a time for private prayer
11.30am joint Fossoway and Cleish worship service by Zoom

Sunday 6th Dec 10am a short Advent service of worship
11.30am joint Fossoway and Cleish worship service by Zoom
3pm Service of remembering by Zoom

Sunday 13th Dec 10am a time for private prayer
11.30am joint Fossoway and Cleish worship service by Zoom

Sunday 20th Dec 10am a short Advent service of worship
11.30am joint Fossoway and Cleish worship service by Zoom

Thurs 24th Dec 5pm Family Christmas Eve service by Zoom
11.45pm Christmas Watchnight service by Zoom.

Sunday 27th Dec 10am a time for private prayer
11.30am joint Fossoway and Cleish worship service by Zoom

2021

Sunday 3rd Jan 10am a time for private prayer
11.30am joint Fossoway and Cleish worship service by Zoom

Sunday 10th Jan 10am a time for private prayer
11.30am joint Fossoway and Cleish worship service by Zoom

Sunday 17th Jan 10am morning worship
11.30am joint Fossoway and Cleish worship service by Zoom

Sunday 24th Jan 10am a time for private prayer
11.30am joint Fossoway and Cleish worship service by Zoom

Sunday 31st Jan 10am morning worship
11.30am joint Fossoway and Cleish worship service by Zoom