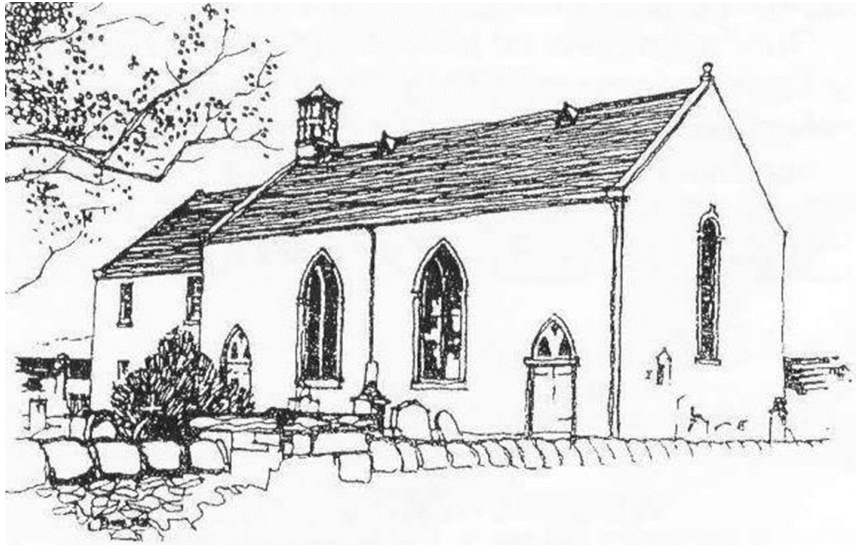


Fossoway Church

News



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Summer Edition

2021

All are welcome at Fossoway Church Services

Sunday Morning 9.45am Worship in the church

12.15pm Worship on Zoom

**On the last Thursday of each month at 7.00pm there is a
celebration of Holy Communion on Zoom**

**For the Zoom link please contact
Reverend Elisabeth Stenhouse on 01577 842128**

Dear Church Members and Friends,

Autumn seems to have arrived all of a sudden this year. Gently creeping in after the glorious days of summer that we've had. It has been an interesting but difficult time since I last wrote to you in our last newsletter. Life is slowly getting back to that 'new normal' that folks have been talking about for so long.



In our last newsletter, I reminded you that it was on 15th March 2020 that, due to advice received regarding Coronavirus, we decided to cancel Refresh, House Group and Film Night, and on 17th March 2020, our church was closed. It has been a long journey for everybody in the world since those first days of pandemic and lockdown. Our House Group, of course, has continued to meet through WhatsApp and share their studies with all of us through email, and our church building has been open again for some time now. We have had some wonderful celebrations in the church, with the Baptism of Nairn Harley on 22nd August and the Profession of Faith of Harry and Hedvig Moncreiff on 12th Sept and also the baptism of their son Torsten. There have been some sad occasions as well with the funeral services for Bob Wilkie, Jean Johnman, and more recently Margaret Broomfield. Just a couple of weeks ago we were informed that the guidelines for opening churches were changed and we can now meet in our church with no social distance marked out. There have been some other changes as well and you may read about them later in this newsletter. These changes mean that we can now consider re-starting some of our activities like Refresh and Film Night, and our Toddlers and Carers Group has already re-started on a Friday morning.

We are looking further ahead at the moment and hopefully we will be able to have some of our usual services in the church that we have missed over the last couple of years. We will keep everybody informed as soon as we have dates confirmed but a good place to look is on the church website cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk

Psalm 104:10-17 (GNT)

¹⁰ You make springs flow in the valleys, and rivers run between the hills.
¹¹ They provide water for the wild animals; there the wild donkeys quench their thirst. ¹² In the trees near by, the birds make their nests and sing.
¹³ From the sky you send rain on the hills, and the earth is filled with your blessings.
¹⁴ You make grass grow for the cattle and plants for us to use, so that we can grow our crops ¹⁵ and produce wine to make us happy, olive oil to make us cheerful, and bread to give us strength. ¹⁶ The cedars of Lebanon get plenty of rain—the LORD's own trees, which he planted.
¹⁷ There the birds build their nests; the storks nest in the fir trees.

We are coming to the end of our Season of creation on 3rd Oct, this is a time to think about the wonderful world that God has created and to bring him our praise and thanksgiving. We will continue with our celebrations on 24th Oct with our Harvest Thanksgiving and we are asking for gifts to be given to the Broke not Broken Foodbank again this year. We are hoping that we will be able to have our bacon (or alternative) rolls that morning too.

Prayer

Merciful God,

We praise you because you know all things, see all things, and remember us. Thank you that we can depend on your presence with us in every season and situation, that each time has purpose and meaning. We are grateful that each season is orchestrated by you, even the harder ones. Help us to see your hand and guidance in our lives as we go through changes, the highs, and the lows. May we grow in trust and persevere in the valleys. How great you are, oh God, for being so intentional to care for us in every season. For even when things seem glum, your light continues to shine on us in mercy and grace.

Amen.

The Queen's Green Canopy

'Plant a tree for Jubilee!'

Next year is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and we are being asked to plant trees.



Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girl-guiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and businesses will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees from October 2021, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022. There's a focus on planting sustainably and the hope that the Queen's Green Canopy will create a legacy of honour of the Queen's leadership of our nation, which will benefit many future generations.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, *The Queen's Green Canopy* will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

Community groups (residents' associations, Scout and Girl-guiding groups, youth and sports clubs, Rotary Clubs etc) are all being encouraged to get involved in Planting a Tree. The Woodland Trust is a partner of the QGC and they have some free trees for schools and community groups. From Oct 2021 to March 2022 - the tree-planting season - they have over three million saplings in tree packs, available on a first come, first served basis and they are also providing information on how best to plant them. From the beginning of Oct you can take a photo of your tree and put it on the Queen's Green Canopy website and you can also mark it on a special online map. You can also order an official plaque to mark the occasion for generations to come. I think that this is something that we as a church could get involved with and we could encourage our school and community to get involved with as well.

[The Queen's Green Canopy \(queensgreencanopy.org\)](https://queensgreencanopy.org)

Coronavirus Update

We have finally been advised by the Church of Scotland about changes to the guidelines we have to follow regarding opening the church during the Coronavirus pandemic. The Kirk Session of Fossoway Church have discussed and set the following guidelines:

- We can now move to no imposed social distance in the church. This means you will now be able to choose where you would like to sit.
- Facemasks are still a necessary requirement and have to be worn all the time you are in church in line with the Scottish Government's request, that is, unless you have a medical reason not to do so or are under 12 years of age.
- You will still be asked to sanitise your hands before entering the church.
- There will still be a one way system marked around the church to avoid undue congestion in the main entrance vestibule
- We no longer need to record details of people attending worship services, however you will still be asked for details for any events where we share refreshments.
- To enable the possibility for people to still sit at a safe distance from one another when the church is very busy we have set a limit for the number of people sitting in any one area, this is 70 people downstairs in the church sanctuary, 10 people upstairs in the balcony and 18 people in the Elizabeth Wilkie Hall.
- There is no longer any need to phone and book a seat for a Sunday morning service.

We are slowly getting back to normal and any requirements still in place are there to help to keep you safe and comfortable. Probably more changes will be coming so you will find details of any further changes on our church website: cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk

Notes from the Session September 2021

It is wonderful to see our church tentatively getting back to normal. We are now open for worship every Sunday at 9.45am. At time of writing we can safely seat approximately 80 people in the church. Hopefully, by time of reading, restrictions will be lifted.

Our church hall is **now open** for bookings. The Baby and Toddler group has started up again; we have a corporate booking and inquiries for others. Please get in touch with Eileen Black if you wish to make a booking. Her contact number is 01259 742046

October 3rd will be our first Cup of Tea Sunday

as well as celebrating

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

During the following week we are planning our re opening of Refresh and our Film Night.

The Session is beginning to plan for Harvest and Christmas.

Presbytery News

As all churches are coming out of a very difficult time, Perth Presbytery is keen to gather information from all congregations in order to form a new Presbytery Plan. Members of Session are working on gathering the information requested. That is information about;

- our worship and mission,
- if our church ceased to exist, would we be missed
- our community and our involvement in our community
- our membership
- our financial situation
- our building

Welcome Rota

A group of 10 people have kept the Welcome Rota going during the last few months and a huge thank you goes out to these folk.

I now need to expand the rota as more people return to worship. All Elders take a turn but we also have congregational members on the rota. I am looking for a few more members for this very important, but NOT arduous task.

If you would like to be a part of this welcoming team, please contact me on 840225.

Janet

Contact Numbers

Minister: The Rev Lis Stenhouse 01577 842128

Session Clerk: Mrs Janet Harper 01577 840225

www.lilomi.org.uk

Hope For Children



11th May 2021

Dear Friends,

In July 2019 our founder, Bethany Davies, visited you in your churches, through her uncle David Chisholm to ask for your help to support Jonathan's Child Care in Bo, Sierra Leone to refurbish the terrible toilet and sanitation facilities they had there.

On the 4th May 2021 Jonathan's Child Care school (JCC) opened the new toilet facilities on the school campus in Bo.

The support of the congregations of the Fossoway and Cleish churches has gone into building robust toilets and a sustainable facility for the children of JCC, as well as educating the children about the importance of hand hygiene and keeping the toilets clean. The toilets will reduce instances of sickness in the children and increase attendance of older girls so more children are learning every day!

Now we have our first project under our belt and we have exciting plans for the future. We are now supporting JCC to transform the school into a **Centre of Excellence for Sciences** thereby creating opportunities for children of the Bo community to go on to be doctors and lab technicians, nurses and engineers. We want to help JCC give Sierra Leone a fighting chance of building a prosperous and healthy future for itself.

Furthermore, **96p** of every **£1** donated to Lilomi goes directly into our projects (the other 4p is for website hosting, domain names and internet costs.) We have kept our overheads tiny so our impact is **big!**

Thank you for supporting Lilomi. We look forward, with hope, to continue working with you to make the future brighter and more prosperous for the children of Bo and Sierra Leone.

Yours Thankfully

The Lilomi Team



THANK YOU FOSSOWAY AND CLEISH CHURCHES

Lilomi & JCC Toilet Project



BEFORE!



On 21.12.2020 JCC began the rebuilding of the water and sanitation facilities that serve the 400 children that attend the school. The project took 20 weeks and came in at just over £24k, which was **significantly under budget**. The extra money will go towards the continued improvements to the school and the plans to make the institution and **Centre of Excellence in Sciences!**

Now JCC expect to see:

- Decreased absences due to sickness in the school.
- Decreased absence of Secondary School age girls.
- Increased understanding of the importance of good hygiene and sanitation.
- More productive students and teachers.
- Better educational outcomes.

These changes have been made because of you. By supporting Lilomi you have made a real impact on the lives of children disadvantaged by extreme poverty.



What the Chief said:
"To have such toilets in JCC will help improve our children's health. I am very proud"



After

OWNERSHIP

The JCC parents have taken ownership of the toilets by contributing to staff who will keep the toilets clean and ensure that the children are careful not to break any of the toilet components.

Fossoway Primary News

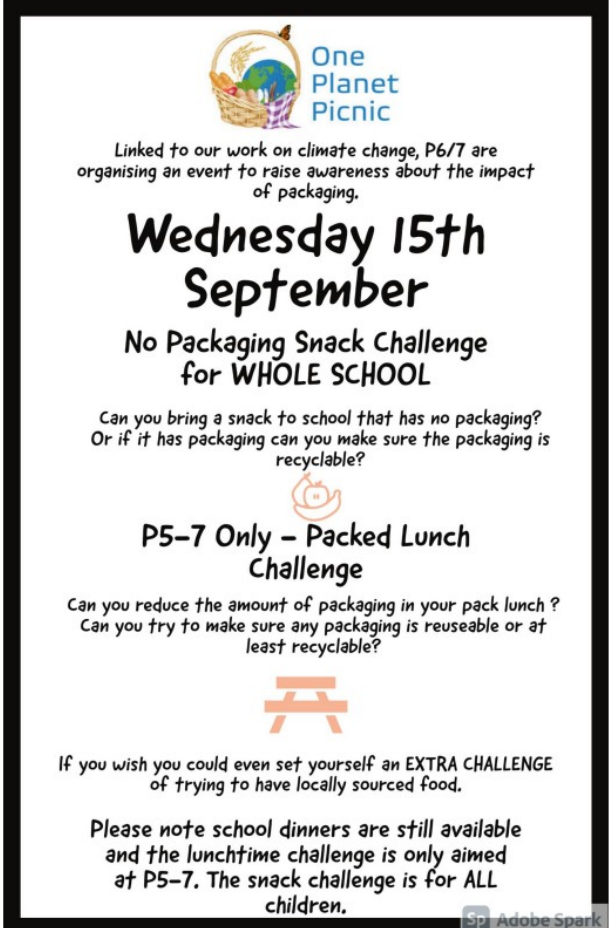
At Fossoway we have been learning about climate change and greenhouse gases and how we can help the environment.

We are holding a special 'One Planet Picnic' where we are going to challenge ourselves to bring a snack for break with no single use packaging. The older classes will also have a challenge to reduce the amount of packaging in their lunchboxes.

We are doing this because it is our planet, and we should care for it or there will not be any more planet earth to live on.

Perhaps you could hold a picnic with no plastic too or think about the amount of packaging on products you buy as well.

By Éva Harrower (Head Girl) and Erin Galbraith (Depute House Captain)



The poster features a logo at the top with a globe and a picnic basket, and the text 'One Planet Picnic'. Below the logo, it states: 'Linked to our work on climate change, P6/7 are organising an event to raise awareness about the impact of packaging.' The main title is 'Wednesday 15th September' in large, bold letters. Below that, it says 'No Packaging Snack Challenge for WHOLE SCHOOL'. A challenge question follows: 'Can you bring a snack to school that has no packaging? Or if it has packaging can you make sure the packaging is recyclable?'. There is a small icon of a smiling face. Below this, it says 'P5-7 Only - Packed Lunch Challenge'. Another challenge question: 'Can you reduce the amount of packaging in your pack lunch? Can you try to make sure any packaging is reusable or at least recyclable?'. There is a small icon of a picnic table. Below that, it says 'If you wish you could even set yourself an EXTRA CHALLENGE of trying to have locally sourced food.' At the bottom, it says 'Please note school dinners are still available and the lunchtime challenge is only aimed at P5-7. The snack challenge is for ALL children.' There is a small 'Adobe Spark' logo in the bottom right corner.

MONEY NEWS

The accounts for the half year ending 30th June have been passed on to the Kirk Session.

Our Total Offerings are slightly lower at £16,887 compared to £17,360 last year with the Open Plate offerings down by £403. The other offerings and general income is negligible with Total Income of £25,521 as against £27,582 last year.

Under Expenditure the first section is National Ministry and Mission & Wider Work coming in at £14,000 compared to £15,599 last year.

The second section is Local Staffing Costs totalling £2,453 as against £2,632 last year with the biggest reduction being in the Other Salaries as we had no organists from mid-March onwards.

The third section is Building Costs coming in at £5,032 compared to £5,094 last year with only small variations in the different sections.

The fourth section is Other Local Costs at £872 as against £1,171 from last year with our other expenses being minimal as against the norm.

Our Total Expenses were £22,357 as against £24,496 in 2020.

For the Fabric Fund there has been nothing this quarter but we are aware that this won't last as further work is forecast.

In our General account with church head office we have had to withdraw a further £3,000 leaving us with only £4,800 in our cash reserves to last the rest of the year. This will put us in a very difficult financial position going forward.

Tom Mechan

FOSSOWAY GATHERING

As you all know, we've just had our Fossoway Gathering. It was a day I was looking forward to and dreading, at the same time. Our previous effort in 2019 was, as Wallace & Gromit say, "a grand day out". But this year after all the trials and tribulations of the past 21 months, it was a huge marker in the life of our village. There has been, for my generation in particular, a bit of indecision about whether or not to go out. But...we took up the challenge and loads of us turned up, with family, friends and neighbours to join in.



Our church bakers, and new folks too, answered the calls for help – 26 bakers in all and what a job they did! Apple cakes, banana cakes, courgette cakes and the ubiquitous lemon cakes and Victoria sponges adorned the tables along with flapjacks, umpteen kinds of brownies, fairy cakes and tray bakes of all descriptions. Even red velvets, pancakes, oatly biscuits and shortbread were vying to be eaten! And, tucked amongst all these was a tray of Empire biscuits AKA Belgian, Double or German Biscuits. They disappeared like snow from the proverbial dyke! Cake heaven it most certainly was!

Then, of course, the helpers/servers. All 15 of them, dressed in matching, immaculate white plastic pinnies, doing an amazing job serving drinks, helping you to choose a bite to eat and also sanitising tables to keep you safe.

Thanks also to the “guard dogs”, Alan and Tom, who all day took your money and then asked you to sanitise your hands before coming in to the marquee. (We do try to look after you).

Also I must mention “the boys”, Donald, David and Willie with his wee white van! They were the best removal team I have ever met. The move into the splendid marquee equipped with the sinks, urns and hot and cold water, was a dawdle for these guys. They were so great! They even took it all back again in the evening!

Thank you all so much for all you did to make a great day even better. You made my day an easy one. The chat in the tent was a joy and it was great to see so many “weel kent” faces after such a long time.

On behalf of our lovely wee kirk, thank you all.

Isabel

PS As my hero, Charlie Mackesy says: “We have a long way to go – but look how far we’ve come.” X

Church Hall Hire

We have a spacious comfortable hall, a well equipped kitchen, other rooms and an audio visual system, which can be hired by small, large and any in between groups.

If you wish to hire any part of our building please contact our Hall Booking Clerk, Mrs Eileen Black on 01259 742046.

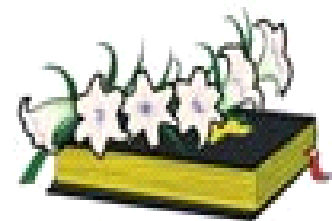


Funerals Conducted

Bob Wilkie 24th March 2021

Jean Johnman 7th July 2021

Margaret Broomfield 23rd September 2021



In Loving Memory

Dates for your Diary

Thursday Sept 30th	7pm Celebration of Holy Communion by Zoom
Sunday Oct 3rd	9.45am Celebration of Holy Communion followed by Tea, Coffee and Traidcraft Stall.
Thursday Oct 7th	Weekly Refresh 2 - 4.00pm
Friday Oct 8th	Monthly Film Night 7.30 - 9.30pm
Sunday Oct 10th	9.45am Morning Worship and National Giving Day 12.15pm Zoom worship service
Thursday Oct 14th	Weekly Refresh 2 -4.00pm
Sunday Oct 17th	9.45am Morning Worship 12.15pm Zoom worship service
Sunday Oct 24th	9.45am Harvest Thanksgiving followed by a BIG BREAKFAST
Sunday Nov 7th	9.45am Morning Worship. Cup of tea and Traidcraft Sunday 12.15pm Zoom worship service
Sunday Nov 14th	Remembrance Sunday at the Village Hall 9.30am
Sunday Nov 28th	9.45am First Sunday in Advent and a celebration of Holy Communion 12.15pm Zoom worship service
Saturday Dec 4th	Christmas Fete and Community Carols

All other Christmas services and events to be confirmed later.

Please check our website cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk and village posters for updated information.