



Coatbridge Middle Parish Church

Newsletter March, 2021

MIDDLE PARISH CHURCH COATBRIDGE NEWSLETTER - March. 2021



FROM THE SESSION CLERK

Dear All,

This first quarter of the 2021 has not been much different from most of 2020, but it has the promise of returning us to some kind of normality. This is thanks to the vaccine that is being administered throughout the country and I'm sure many of you have already received at least the first dose and added to that the reducing Covid numbers have helped lift the mood and I hope our spirits.

The chink of light at the end of a dark tunnel has started to get brighter and with some positive news emanating from both the Scottish and UK governments it is clear we will be able to re-open our church before Easter, albeit still with restricted numbers.

Our Sunday service will start at 10 am from March until the end of June and we will be operating the same booking system with the same number as before. So, we will re-open on Sunday 28 th March at 10am and our Easter Good Friday service will be on the 2 nd April at noon and Easter Sunday at 10am

Booking number: 07538 153274

I thank you for your continued co-operation and I look forward to seeing you all soon. It has been an enormously difficult year for us all. Staying at home, social distancing and wearing a mask outdoors are all activities that 12 months ago would have caused a raised eyebrow and dismissive glance. Some of us will have been furloughed and perhaps even lost our jobs and these circumstances present economic challenges in addition to that feeling of confinement and isolation.

Tragically, some of us have lost loved ones and whether through Covid or not we have all been challenged by the limitations on funerals, mourners and coping with loss in isolation. I expect we will have a church service to remember those loved ones when the time is right. For those shielding and living on their own it has been even tougher.

This is why it's so important we keep in touch with each other and I would encourage our elders and board members to keep in touch with those in their district.

Sadly, we have lost a number of our members so far in 2021:

Mr Bill Craig. Mrs Myra Morton. Mrs Alice Pryde.

All of them familiar faces and each one a supportive member of the Middle Church.

Our Locum Richard Beattie has been recording Sundays Service's since the lockdown and these will continue for the short term and are posted on our website on a weekly basis.

Speaking to many members I know some are anxious to get back to church and some are anxious about coming back to church but I can assure you that all government guidelines for the opening of churches will be adhered to including social distancing , wearing masks and while sadly still no singing we will have music for you to enjoy.

I hope to see you soon.

Gordon Russell. (Session Clerk)



"Do you think it's time we started going to church?"

DEATHS

The following members have sadly passed away during 2020/21

Mrs. L. Stevenson
Mr. T. Peat
Mr. W. Fotheringham
Mrs. O. Lithgow
Mrs. M. Mortimer
Mr. D. Forsyth
Mrs. D. McDougal
Mrs. E. Forster
Mrs. I. McDonald
Mrs. J. Peat
Mrs. M. Gibb
Mr. A. Pryde
Mr. W. Craig
Mrs. M. Morton
Mrs. A. Pryde

SUNDAY SCHOOL

As I write this update for Sunday School we are unfortunately still unable to meet on a Sunday morning. We continue to keep in touch with our members and their families through our Facebook page. We managed, before the Christmas lockdown, to distribute a Christmas treat and it was nice to see some of the familiar faces at their doorstep. Regrettably during January and February we felt that home schooling was a priority and therefore we have not engaged with the children directly at this time. However, on the lead up to Easter it is our intention to distribute material to celebrate this Festival.

We eagerly await, from the Scottish government, information on the relaxing of restrictions and once these and authority from the Church of Scotland have been received we HOPE to be able to gather as a Sunday school as soon as possible.

Meantime, please continue to keep safe.

Marjorie McIntosh. (Supperintendant)



GUILD

It is now a year since we last met together in the Guild and much has happened since. However we have kept in touch with one another by regular telephone calls and, as restrictions seem to be easing off, hopefully we may have the opportunity to meet again later in the year.

All should have received their vaccination by now so keep safe, keep well and we will hear soon about any plans ahead..

Nan Penman (Convenor)



SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

The days are getting longer, the bulbs are showing their heads, we are all getting our vaccinations so let's be optimistic about the months ahead. We could be planning a start for our club again and a wee blether with our friends. Charlotte had been faithfully keeping in touch with us all for which we thank her very much.

Sadly over the past few months we have lost three of our faithful members. My dear wife Jenny died in October, Arthur Pryde passed on in December and Alice Pryde died recently in February. All have given the club great service and support and will be sadly missed. They will be fondly remembered by all.

Easter is approaching and church services will be commencing on a small scale. Let's hope this is the long awaited start to a fresh beginning and until we meet again keep well, keep safe and trust for a better future.

Matt Peat. President

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

COMPANY SECTION



Although we have been unable to meet face to face we have been in touch with Company Section boys.

Just before Christmas local officers visited each boy to drop off a selection box and card. Normally we would have had a pantomime trip but that was obviously not possible, however, by the wonders of modern technology the boys enjoyed an online pantomime instead.

Last month we had our first zoom quiz. We issued a questionnaire to the boys then themed a quiz round their likes and dislikes. Using an app called Kahoot the boys answered online questions. with Staff Sergeant Lewis Hendry coming top.

We hope to organise some more online activities soon in advance of our eventual return to face to face meetings.

Douglas Hazlie (Captain)

ANCHOR BOYS

Like all organisations it is now a year since we have been able to meet face to face, we have been keeping in touch with the boys via zoom. We have had a few online meetings which the boys seemed to enjoy.

Between lockdowns we handed out prizes and badges to the boys which they would have received at the Annual Parents Evening. We have also posted out crafts and activities and are still emailing and posting BB themed activities.

Feedback from parents have been very positive, we will continue to stay in contact with the boys until we can meet face to face.

Morag Craig
Officer in Charge

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

JUNIOR SECTION

Well – what an incredible year this has been!

We have tried hard to keep working with our boys albeit at a distance. For the second year in a row we were Battalion Challenge trophy winners, and would not want to lose any of our fabulous boys!

The Battalion decided last October as there were no actual competitions they would run a photography competition with online submissions. And didn't we do well! Aaron Lynn (2nd year), won 1st prize in the Humans category for Junior Section, while his younger brother, Andrew (1st year) won 1st prize in the Landscape category and was also best overall photo of the competition. Ethan Brown, another 1st year, won a Special Merit Certificate in the Humans category too. The first year boys have never actually been able to attend Junior Section but still entered and achieved success – well done boys!

In January we were unable to continue with our doorstep delivery of activities so have gone online where we already enjoyed a Quiz night and also a cook-along.

The Battalion ran another competition at the start of this year to design a badge for the forthcoming centenary of our Battalion and yet again we had success! Adam Paterson (3rd year) designed the winning entry for Junior Section, so look out for his design throughout the next year in events and memorabilia connected to the centenary.

As you can see, while it has been a challenging time for everyone, our boys have continued to do us, themselves and their families proud.

We look forward to being able to meet with our boys again face-to-face and until then, we thank them for their continued efforts and commitment to the Junior Section.

Janice Watt
Officer in Charge

THE GIRLS' BRIGADE



The Company finished off the year with a visit from Santa at the Church gates, where all the girls and officers received a socially distanced gift! It was lovely to see so many girls take the time to visit.

Unfortunately, in February, as rules had changed, Girls Brigade Scotland did not allow us to distribute activity packs to the girls, so we kept in touch via our Facebook page and Zoom meetings. The girls were given lots of tasks and challenges to do, which included crafts, fitness challenges, making pancakes with favourite toppings, scavenger hunts and many more.

The Brigader section have been meeting on Zoom, with Officers giving the girls a variety of tasks to complete, with the latest challenge being “Get out and get active! “

Rhona McIntosh has completed her final task for her Leadership training, and is awaiting feedback from GBS. Lauren McCall has completed her Citizenship paper, project, and 1st Initiative task for her Queen’s Award, and is continuing to work with her Company Service and Faith Journey.

Thanks go to all the Officers who have been working so hard in the background to help all our girls in this difficult time.

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter!

Linda O’Rourke. Captain