

Closeburn Newsletter

SPRING 2020



We are pleased to include both Community and Church information in this latest Spring Newsletter.

Unfortunately during this time of this Covid-19 Pandemic lockdown we will not be delivering them door to door but will be lodging them on the Church Website and on the local Facebook Pages. We understand that not everyone has access through these medias and we would ask if you know someone who would like to see it that you show it to them or print a copy. This will hopefully be a one off request.

It is also important that we recognise the Closeburn Resilience Group for all that they have done for our Community during this difficult and unusual time.

We hope and pray that you all keep safe and well as we take small steps back to the new normal.

This Newsletter is produced in collaboration between Closeburn Parish Church of Scotland (Scottish Charity No. SC005624, Cong. No 080436) and Closeburn Community Council. Items for future inclusion should be passed to Janis Dick 01848 330067 janis@rhinspark.plus.com or Carol Nicol, carolnicol68@live.co.uk

CHURCH NEWS

MESSAGE FROM REV BILL McKENZIE

Dear Friends, Greetings to you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

There can be no doubt that we are living in anxious times, flooded as we are by information about so many issues of a local, national or global nature. It is always good when we have things to encourage us, daily things like, how well we are cared for by our medical and social services and care homes. Our wee hospital is an amazing oasis of healing, and of care when the prospect of healing becomes strained. Folk are referred to it from far and near, and we hear constant tributes to the work of the staff. Care in the community is a massive service on which so many now fully depend, and how precious is the care given by neighbours and friends.

So many in other lands are constantly afflicted by such scourges as cholera, yellow fever, Ebola or bilharzia. Wherever there is real poverty, faith in resources, human or material, is not enough. In the kind of crises they experience, inner strength and faith become essential.

Now here we are threatened by coronavirus. Anxiety can become widespread, and faith is what we are called upon to exercise; faith in our services but also in each other. There is not just a need to “buck up” or “be brave”. There is so much that we can do by altering our life style. Missionary nurses used to be laughed at by 'putting cleanliness before godliness.' - not very easy in primitive cultures – but for us it really has become necessary to get a handle on personal hygiene. I'm not so sure of the godliness aspect of that saying for many today, but to believe that life is a precious gift, and to know the One who gives that gift, is more than just a bonus, it's a blessing.

Recently I have been reading in the biblical book of Proverbs, after what I would call a relatively long gap. Wisdom, peace of mind, faith and being of good heart figure quite frequently in that book. In a biblical paraphrase of John's gospel called the Message, we find Jesus himself saying, “Trusting me you will be unshakeable and assured, deeply at peace. In this world you will continue to experience difficulties, But take heart! I've overcome the world.”

Having recently celebrated Easter we were reminded of overcoming adversity, of hope out of despair, of life after death. The eternal Spirit of God and of Jesus the Son, will provide all that is necessary for us to find love in life and in death.

I'm very pleased that quite a number of folk have been able to access the short Sunday Morning videos which I have been helped to produce during the lockdown. Anyone wanting to receive the link to these weekly videos can do so by contacting Janis or David Dick, or by visiting the church website <https://www.closeburn-kirkmahoe-churches.org/news>

Peace and Good Health to you all.

Reverend Bill.

Peace be with you. *Bill McKenzie*

CHURCH SERVICES

All Church Services are normally held at 10am and everyone is most welcome.

Our buildings are currently closed but the wider Church is still “open” and contact details are included in this newsletter and on the Church website www.closeburn-kirkmahoe-churches.org

We offer a Weekly Video Sunday Service via our website and we would like to thank Dr. Maggie Gurney for her weekly endeavour in pulling all of these together and producing them for us.

CHURCH GIVING DAY

Our Annual Giving Day fell on Tuesday 29th October 2019.

Thanks to the generosity of those who gave the Church realised a benefit of £4,970 We hope that as restrictions relax we will again hold a Giving Day in October 2020 and this will be all the more important this year. (the Church Treasurer stresses the importance of this day to the sustainable future of our Church. See item below).

CHURCH FUNDS

The Treasurer wishes to point out that despite the Church Building being closed the Congregation's financial obligations remain. Unfortunately the loss of the Sunday Offering equates to about 25% of the Congregational Income.

As it appears that it may be well into the end of the year before Church building can open fully, that supporters bare this in mind

CHURCH FUNDRAISING

During the course of 2019 the Congregation raised funds at the monthly tea/ coffee for the Charity WaterAid. During the year they raised £270

Then at the Christmas Eve Watchnight Service an offering was taken and £225 was raised for the Veterans Garden Dumfries.

THANKS

The Church Congregation would like to record thanks to David Dick for carrying out Church Services when Mr McKenzie was on holiday and also thank Nick Riley and Jill for playing the organ when Kath was recovering from a hand injury.

CHURCH GUILD

The Guild is suspended until further notice and will reopen when safe to do so.

GIVE AS YOU LIVE

For those who buy "on-line" there is a way to support the Church ***at no cost to you***. Many on-line retailers will contribute to a charity, such as the Church when you purchase from them. To give in this way you would need to register at <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/> and follow the registration process. You will be given a chance to choose a Charity in a search box and if you type Closeburn Parish Church this will find it.

Once registered if you log in to Give as you live and go to your selected store, any purchases you make will be recognised and the retailer will make a donation to the Church.

CHURCH REGISTER

Deaths:

12th January 2020

George Notman,
Formerly Barrasgate, Kirkton

3rd March 2020

Annie Oram,
Buccleuch Crescent, Thornhill

7th April 2020

Margaret Harkness,
Formerly Buccleuch Crescent, Thornhill

CHURCH CONTACTS

Interim Moderator Rev. William M McKenzie, MBE, D.A., 41 Kingholm Road, Dumfries DG1 4SR Tel; 01387 253688, mckenzie.dumfries@btinternet.com

Session Clerk Jack Tait, Lilac Cottage, Park, DG3 5JP Tel; 01848 331700, jack.tait1941@gmail.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

CLOSEBURN RESILIENCE GROUP

The team have been making up and delivering packs to children and the more vulnerable adults in the communities of Closeburn village, Park and Cample. We have appreciated any donations that we have received for the packs, from jigsaws, drawing from the kids, knitted and crochet items and little bits and Bob's.

If anyone is in any need of any assistance with shopping or any other essentials, or even if they are finding these times difficult just give us a call, we can offer just a chat or be able to assist finding/suggesting activities to reduce boredom.

Main contact; -

Sarah Currie

Tel; 07921525296

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Following the Region Wide elections the Closeburn CC was established with the membership confirmed as: -

Carol Currie – Chair. Emma Hodgson – Secretary

David Dick – Treasurer

Sarah Currie, Janis Dick, Cathy Head, Mike Steele

– Community Councilors.

COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Anyone exercising the Orchard during lockdown will have noticed the large new, sadly empty, polytunnel. As you will have realized the work there has had to stop during these times. However a look inside will reveal that the fruit trees have become established and areas of grass planted are growing well.

Some tidying up will be done to maintain the area and it is likely now that it will be well into next year before development work can re-commence.

More can be found about the project on the NVLT Facebook page and by searching 'Closeburn Growing Skills' on Vimeo.

Volunteers will be needed to assist with all aspects of the garden transformation please contact Mike or Jakob at the NVLT.

CASTLE CRESCENT HOUSING

The Nith Valley LEAF Trust are pleased to announce that the community owned Passivhaus homes on Castle Crescent are now fit to be occupied.

A few outside finishing jobs have to be completed and these will be done in a timeous manner. However the Local Planning Office have agreed to allow occupation and the tenants will be moving in in the near future.

This is a remarkable development for an area and community such as ours and it is being looked at across Scotland and indeed the U.K. as a way forward.

CLOSEBURN SWI ('The Rural')

The SWI is currently suspended and will only re-open when safe to do so.

Anyone who is interested can contact Janis Dick on the number on the front of the Newsletter or simply come along.

YOUTH CLUB (CRAZY CLUB)

The youth club is currently suspended pending being safe to re-open.

GALA

The Gala Committee had to take a decision about the 2020 Gala and were forced onto the side of Caution to cancel it.

Obviously this decision needed to be made as these events are some time in the planning and cannot be set up or indeed cancelled at short notice.

We will all look forward in anticipation of the 2021 Gala.

COMMUNITY BUS

The Community Bus Trustees sadly had to take the decision to suspend all services.

This decision was not taken easily as they know only too well how important the service is to many of our mature residents. They had no option but to do so because safety could not be ensured for either passengers or the volunteer drivers.

No date can be given for the services restarting but once health advice allows it will do.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Clyde Wind Farm Dumfries and Galloway Community Fund is open for applications for funding.

There are 2 application periods and these are:

Apply by 3rd July 2020 for a decision in September and

Apply by 11th January 2021 for a decision in April.

Fund Factsheets and applications at

www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/clydedumfriesandgalloway

e-mail: office@foundationscotland.org.uk

Tel: 01557 814927

Funding is also available to this area from the Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefit Funds. ANCBC.

Their website for information and applications is <https://ancbc.co.uk/>

Or contact Foundation Scotland as above.

In addition, smaller grants of up to £500 can be applied for through the Community Council. These come from the Clyde fund and the ANCBC.

The Grants available are for the Closeburn Community Council District so if you have a project please consider this funding stream.

EVENTS

LET US HOPE THAT BY THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WE CAN FILL THIS SECTION UP WITH THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO.



PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATORS

The Community Council are pleased to announce that they have managed to raise funding for a second Automatic External Defibrillator, (AED).

These are located at

1. The Gable end of the Dwelling house known as Shottswood, Shotts, Closeburn DG3 5JT.
2. Front of Matt Williamson & Son, Unit 1, Closeburn Industrial Estate, Main Street, Closeburn, DG3 5HR

They are both available 24 hours a day.

**** Guidance on their use is overleaf ****

Using a defibrillator (AED)

An AED (automated external defibrillator) is a device that gives the heart an electric shock when someone's heart has stopped (cardiac arrest).

You can use an AED on children over one year old and adults.

Ambulances have them on board, but using an AED in the minutes before an ambulance arrives can double someone's chances of survival. So it is up to bystanders quickly to find the nearest defibrillator.

How do I use a defibrillator/AED?

You can use an AED with no training. The machine analyses someone's heart rhythm and then uses visual or voice prompts to guide you through each step.

- **MAKE SURE BOTH YOU AND THE CASUALTY ARE IN A SAFE POSITION. DO NOT PUT THE CASUALTY OR YOURSELF IN DANGER!**
- **MAKE SURE SOMEONE HAS CALLED FOR AN AMBULANCE**, and, if an AED isn't immediately available, give CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) until someone can bring you an AED.
- As soon as you've got an AED, switch it on. It will immediately start to give you a series of visual and verbal prompts informing you of what you need to do. Follow these prompts until the ambulance arrives or someone with more experience than you takes over.
- Take the pads out of the sealed pack. Remove or cut through any clothing and wipe away any sweat from the chest
- Remove the backing paper and attach the pads to their chest
- Place the first pad on their upper right side, just below their collarbone as shown on the pad
- Then place the second pad on their left side, just below the armpit. Make sure you position the pad lengthways, with the long side in line with the length of their body
- Once you've done this, the AED will start checking the heart rhythm. Make sure that no-one is touching the person. Continue to follow the voice and/or visual prompts that the machine gives you until help arrives.

Child - AED positions



Adult - AED positions

