

# Tidings



September 2021

Autumn



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Dear friends,

“You have reached your destination”

In our last issue of Tidings we talked about the roadmap of life, faith, and re-opening the church. This month it would be good to talk about it from the other way around, thinking about destinations and the way-stops along the way.

Where do we want to be? If we had to program a SatNav and await the immortal words, “You have reached your destination”, what would that destination be in church terms? Would there be acceptable waypoints? Though our ultimate hope and destination is heaven (Heb.10:19), it’s appropriate to enjoy the journey and the encouragement it affords (Heb.10:24-25). Despite the difficulties, our patience is bearing fruit and we are getting there (Heb.10:35-36). The road is opening up before us.

So, what is the news? The church has reopened for regular weekly services. The cushions are on the pews. The balcony is open. We can sing in the church again. The choir is back in rehearsals. Sunday Live! resumes. The uniformed organisations are starting back this month, after 18 months absence. The Livestreaming and DVD recordings continue to be available. These are some of the things we have no doubt been desperate to hear and there is much work to do as we think about what we want to start (rather than re-start) doing as a congregation.

However, we are still required to wear masks in church, unless exempt, and there is a one-way system in place that means that we enter through the south (carpark) door and exit through the east. Also, a few of the pews in the church continue to be roped off to permit people to physically distance if they desire. But we may sit where we wish rather than get directed to a seat. It has been wonderful to see the smiles in the eyes of people we know and love. I trust that will be cemented at our communion service on 12<sup>th</sup> September.

On the 3rd of October we hope to hold a church family event where we can remember that we are a church family as well as socialise after the service. From that point onwards we anticipate being able to supply refreshments after the services and resume in-person Saturday coffee. It seems a good point to take stock of the road we travel together.

Despite the horrors of the past 18 months of our journey, I am absolutely delighted to be seeing things moving once more. As our activities increase and people fill the church again, perhaps we will all catch some of that excitement. Even if we have not quite arrived at our destination, we have Christ to accompany and guide us (2 Peter 1:19). It is my earnest hope that Autumn may yet become our church Spring.

Your Minister and friend,

*Ross*



Covid 19 and the restrictions put in place earlier this year by the Scot. Gov. and the C. of S. have been slowly relaxed through the last few months.

The C. of S. in their last communication about restrictions within sanctuary's advised that a voluntary 1 metre rule would be a prudent guideline to follow. We have implemented this guideline along with the other current do's and don'ts that both the Scot. Gov and the church are requesting we keep by.



I have updated our own guidelines for our halls and the church, hall guidelines can be passed on by the office for organisations thinking of starting in the near future and limits on numbers that can occupy them at present.

For those wishing to attend church in the near future, please see the guidelines below agreed by Kirk Session this week.

1. Within the sanctuary a voluntary distancing of 1 metre main body and balcony of church and 2 metre distancing in transepts
2. PLEASE NOTE:- Main front door and secondary front door from car park entrance to be left open at all times, including during the service, this will aid in circulation of fresh air within the building. Exit door right transept to be left open during service again to aid with circulation of fresh air.
3. An infra-red automated hand sanitiser is to be placed at each of the above doors of the church entrance and exit.
4. Face coverings to be worn by all entering the Sanctuary at all times. Minister or official taking service only once in place can remove face covering if they are more than 1 metre from congregation.
5. Offering plate // pouch to be available at entry door. No offering uplifted during service.
6. Elders on door duty to record who attended service (Trace and Protect requirement). Pre booking encouraged through the office allows for list to be printed in advance. Advise attendees to enter the sanctuary and to find a seat within the sanctuary
7. On entry to the sanctuary seats marked for occupation to be used, all others are cordoned off with cord. On departure from the building leave by the side door indicated. With the attendees closest to exit door leaving the building first as directed. All to keep to voluntary social distancing.
8. Church organ can be used at this time. Clavinova permissible alternative. A limited number of choir members can occupy the chancel seats as directed by organist. Choir can remove face coverings to sing but must replace them while seated on chancel.
9. Intimations, order of service all to be displayed on screens.

Members of the congregation are allowed to stand to sing as long as face coverings are worn, within the building.

*Ian Samson*

## Finance

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting the church through the time of closure. This has enabled us to meet all our commitments locally and nationally without having to dip into our investments.

As the church begins to open up again we are looking for volunteers to help count the offerings on a Sunday morning after the service. If we have enough members willing to help, we should be able to have teams of 2 or 4 (depending on the level of offerings) working on a rota basis. If you are able to help can you please contact me using any of the details below.



Many thanks again.

*Marilyn Henderson*

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## Saffronhall Singers

Having enjoyed the lovely weather earlier in the summer, our thoughts are now turning to autumn activities. As a group we have not met since the end of May and so there is little to report.

Although there has been a significant relaxing of restrictions, we are unlikely to be able to meet in person for the time being. Currently, the accommodation in the halls will not support our numbers. We have been offered the use of the church, but with all the mitigations we would have to put in place, we do not think this would be a viable option. Also, while singing is permitted, masks still have to be worn, and for many of our group this would present problems in itself. Consequently, we are planning to continue with online sessions until the beginning of 2022. By that time, booster jabs may have been administered and we should also know if we are winning the battle against the virus in the winter months.

We look forward in hope that in a few more months, life will be much more "normal". Meanwhile, stay safe everyone.



*Campbell Barr*

## Monday Club

Just a brief report folks regarding an opening date for the club. I have been in contact with the committee members and we have decided that due to various circumstances, the club will not meet until the New Year.

I have recently learned that all the over seventies will be getting a booster jab in September/October and with the completion of refurbishment to 'The North' Hall windows going on until October, an October opening may be a little ambitious! If things change, the membership will be advised accordingly. Remember we are only a phone call away. Do not hesitate to contact me personally on 01698 423274 if you have any further questions or just for a wee chat.

Keep Safe

*Charlie Duguid*



# JUNGLE ADVENTURE HOLIDAY CLUB



At our holiday club all of the children enjoyed heading off on their "Jungle Adventure" each day under the watchful eye of Ranger Ross and his team of Rangers. The club was well attended with 25 children attending over the course of the week. Great fun was had by all with singing and dancing, games and crafts, and listening to our daily bible story. Not forgetting our special guest, a rather mischievous Spot the Tiger!

A big thank you to everyone involved in making this holiday club such a success and in particular our very enthusiastic children who joined us each day.



## Guild

Theme – “Look Forward in Faith”

I hope you are all well and have enjoyed the beautiful weather of late.

There is not much to report – The Church is reopening soon, but it may be some time before the Guild can return to “normal”.

I read lately of a minister who went to see “Les Miserables” in the cinema. In the closing chorus there are hints of resurrection to a new world.

*“Do you hear the people sing, do you hear the distant drums?  
It is the future that we bring when tomorrow comes!”*

After the last 18 months we have experienced, let us continue to be patient – these times will pass.

Tomorrow will come – we have His Word.

*Avril Boothroyd*

Guild Co-ordinator

## Sunday Live!

Sunday Live! decided to take a break over the summer months as most families were planning to spend some time away. After almost a year of “Sunday Live from Home” and “Sunday Live on Zoom” we were very fortunate to have our first albeit also our last face to face meeting of the session in the Church grounds for our Sunday Live Birthday Party. Given everyone had had at least one birthday since we last met it seemed rather apt! With most of our children attending, everyone had great fun enjoying the games and activities and of course a well deserved snack.

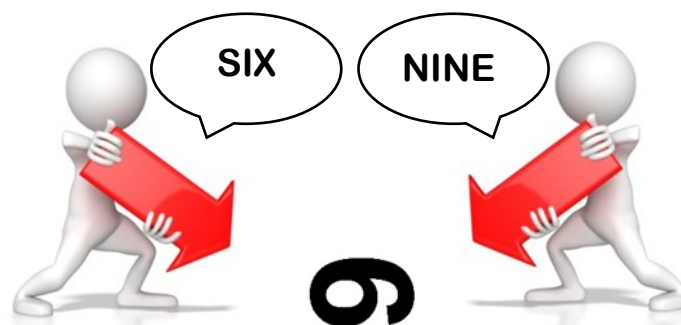
With our batteries recharged hopefully we will be meeting together again in the not too distant future.

A very well done to our Sunday Live Leader, Gillian, who graduated from Glasgow University with first class honours in Technical Education. Congratulations from all at Sunday Live!



*Your Sunday Live Leaders*

## Thought for the Day!



Just because you are right, does not mean, I am wrong. You haven't seen life from my side.



### Drama Kirk's Quiet Summer

Well, we planned to take things a bit easier with Drama Kirk over the summer to allow us all to recharge our batteries, however it has been anything but quiet!

Work on the "Walk with the Word: Emmaus" script is almost complete. This script has been written for Drama Kirk by local actor Louise Scott and will hopefully be performed in Cadzow Glen next August. It follows in the footsteps of the disciples in the aftermath of the crucifixion. We have been working with the team, reading through the script, to finalise things and some fabulous characters and performances are developing. Much to look forward to!

In June, we were asked by the United Reformed Church's Youth Scotland to film a short sketch geared towards going back to school, which can be stressful at the best of times but even more so in the uncertainty of covid and accompanying regulations. The fun skit we recorded "The Apostles Go Out, Really Out (With Snacks)" was then sent to every young person in Scotland who has been associated with the URC, it featured on UCB Radio 1 and is also available on our YouTube playlist - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bf2h59cC3c4> If you haven't seen it yet, please do sit down with a cuppa. We hope it gives you a giggle and some reassurance.



Christmas has also come very early for the Drama Kirk team as we film our nativity projects at the start of September. Delighted to report they will be filmed on location at a local farm and feature many of the Drama Kirk regulars. Our first project is filming four Christmas episodes of Bob Hartman's Rhyming Bible which take us from Mary meeting the Angel, through Joseph's heavenly encounter, the beginning of Christ's earthly life in Bethlehem to the arrival of the wisemen. These four poems will be performed by Drama Kirk regulars across Hamilton's churches and beyond. We are also filming a "Silent Nativity" to go with it, so we tell the story visually. The poems are fun and engaging, especially for children. Help us spread the word!

Our second project is "Shepherd's Christmas" by Jeannette Walters, a humorous nativity from the perspective of the Shepherds that very first Christmas. This will be performed by a cast of professional actors and our own Stuart Davidson.

Both Christmas projects will be available free for schools, churches and community groups to use.



Please keep us in your prayers and – as ever – if you would like to get involved please do let us know. Thanks to everyone involved in our quiet summer! [info@dramakirk.org](mailto:info@dramakirk.org)





***Entered into Eternal Life.***

*"I am the Resurrection and the Life"*

*God of grace and peace, in your Son Jesus Christ  
You have given us new birth into a living hope.  
Strengthen us now to live in the power of the resurrection  
and keep us united with our loved one  
from whom in death we are not divided;  
for you live and reign forever and ever. Amen*

*20 May 2021  
Jean Orr*

*30 May 2021  
Mary Dunn*

*5 June 2021  
Susanne Hamilton*

*1 August 2021  
Elaine Sorbie*

*5 August 2021  
Corinne Blackstock*

*Baptism*

***"Let the children come to me"***

*18 July 2021  
Teddy James McKay*



## PRAYER

Heavenly Father,  
in all that we have experienced  
through these darkest of months,  
may our hearts have drawn closer to you.

In our struggles and fretting  
and all our concerns  
may we find ourselves leaning  
on God alone.

For our friends and our family  
we pray for their blessing  
and a deeper appreciation  
of the things we have missed.  
May we delight in your Word  
and delight in your light,  
for with you we can overcome.  
For in Christ and with Christ  
we pray for your kingdom,  
and let thy will be done.

Amen.

