

CHURCH NEWS

First Hollywood Presbyterian Church

Summer 2020



Records and Notices



Deaths:

27th April
Rev Con Auld

15th July
Norma Jeffrey

3rd August
Aldwrith Wright

27th August
Anne McCall

Any contributions to the Church News are welcome at any time. Please forward to office@firsthollywood.co.uk or Tel 90425035

Sunday Services will resume in church at 11.00am on Sunday 6th September

Sunday 6th September
Rev. Noble McNeely

Sunday 13th September
Rev. Noble McNeely

Sunday 20th September
Rev. Nigel Craig

Sunday 27th September
Rev. Alistair Kennedy

Sunday 4th October
Sam Bostock (former Assistant Minister in Bloomfield)

Sunday 11th October
Rev. Nigel Craig - Harvest/United Appeal Service

- SERVICES WILL BE NO LONGER THAN 35 MINUTES
- DO NOT ATTEND CHURCH IF YOU ARE SHOWING SYMPTOMS OF COVID 19
- PLEASE WEAR A FACE MASK
- PLEASE ARRIVE AS A FAMILY GROUP TO BE SEATED TOGETHER
- PLEASE SIT AND EXIT AS DIRECTED BY THE WELCOMING TEAM
- FURTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE

FACE TO FACE

Many things have changed over these past six months, including the way in which we communicate with one another. Session has been meeting via Zoom; services have been pre-recorded and uploaded online; even pastoral care has been limited to phone calls. Whilst we are very thankful for technology, and for those who have helped familiarise us with the various possibilities, many of us long for personal contact once again: a handshake in the church porch, a hug in the Worship Centre, a smile and a wave across the pews. God willing, actual services (with restrictions) will resume on Sunday 6th September, and interviews for a minister will take place, in person, on Saturday 19th September.



Australian pastor, Richard Sweatman, reflected on this longing in an article entitled: *“The Human Body in the Post-Covid World”*; he wrote: *“Technology allows us to communicate with each other despite physical limitations. It also opens up opportunities for new relationships and evangelism... However, audio and video recordings of my voice and appearance are not who I really am. I really am where my body is.”*

<https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-human-body-in-the-post-covid-world/>

Indebted to this article, and reflecting on Genesis 49-50, I recently shared some thoughts on the importance of our physical bodies, and therefore the joy of meeting one another in person (sermon: 30th August 2020). You may recall that we considered three important biblical doctrines that have a bearing on how we value our bodies.

Firstly, the Scriptural doctrine of Creation affirms both the importance of the soul and the goodness of our bodies created by God. Tragically, Adam rebelled against God and as result died both spiritually and physically. Being descended from sinful Adam we too have died spiritually and will die physically.

Secondly, the doctrine of Redemption reassures us that Christ came to rescue us body and soul. The eternal Son of God became a man, lived a human life of perfect obedience, died as our substitute on the cross, and was physically raised from the dead. Gregory of Nazianzus, one of the theological giants of the Fourth Century observed: *“What has not been taken up (by the Son of God) has not been healed.”* (Letter to Cledonius, Epistle 101).



The salvation that Jesus accomplished is much richer than we often acknowledge. Yes, through faith in Christ, we are pardoned, made right with God and promised eternal life; but our bodies have also been redeemed, and are united to Christ, becoming temples of the Holy Spirit, with which we should glorify God.

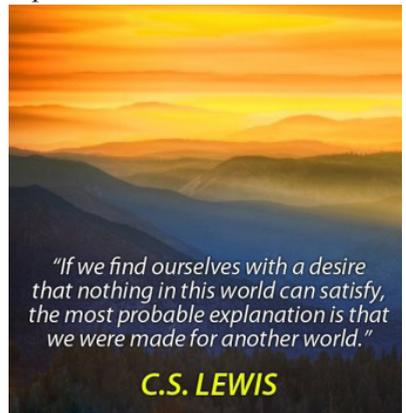
What happens, then, after death? *“The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory, and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves till the resurrection.”*

(Shorter Catechism 37) On the Last Day, when Jesus returns in power, we will be raised up in glory, and our bodies will be fully redeemed (Rom. 8:23), just as the body of Jesus, our Head, was raised on the first Easter morning.

Is it any wonder that we desire to be with one another physically, in person? That’s how God has made us and redeemed us. Having said that, it must also be recognised that for some us meeting physically is not an option, due to health concerns or infirmity.

C.S. Lewis, in *Mere Christianity*, observed: *“If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world.”* May I paraphrase?

“If I find in myself an unsatisfied desire for meeting face-to-face in this world, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world.” By God’s grace, through faith in Christ, at death we will depart to be with Christ, which is far better, and on the Last Day, when he appears, we shall be raised, and we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is (1 John 3:2), we shall see him face to face (1 Cor. 13:12).



Leaving Holywood was both difficult and very strange.

We all sensed the arrival of COVID-19, and this was reflected in my final evening service when a number of you wished us goodbye because we were all so uncertain of what the incoming week would bring.

My final service was in an empty church which broke my heart as we had so enjoyed every minute we had spent in your beautiful sanctuary worshipping with you. As I pronounced the benediction to a video camera, I confess I had no idea that this was how it was going to be from March until July.

My first Sunday in Killinchy was also a virtual service that had me introducing myself to an empty church, the same empty church five of us had gathered into the night before for my installation. After the YouTube service on Sunday 31st March, I was overcome with so many messages and phone calls from the good folk of Bangor Road.

For the next three months, I recorded a short 5-6min video every weekday and posted it on Killinchy's Facebook page. Initially, it was only meant for Holy-week and Easter but it grew to become something that lasted until the second week of August, 100 videos in total. This, along with a virtual service every Sunday and two Zoom prayer meetings, fast became the norm.

Tracey and I had also spent time taking our daily walk around the area and I began to realise I was walking and sometimes cycling past people in their garden who were members of the church. I created several walking routes and then cycle routes and, by July, driving routes around the district where I was able to say hello to over one hundred homes - all at more than two metres distance!

On Sunday 12th July, after a lot of hard work and planning, we returned to church for worship together. This has been strange and far from perfect as we have had between 60-80 people out each Sunday. Now we have to wear face coverings and some find this difficult.

The future is unknown and hard to gauge, so we take our time and trust in the Lord to lead and guide us.

We often think of you and are so grateful for all the love you showed us, for your gifts as we left you and your constant messages, emails and phone calls. We are sorry it had to end the way it did but we trust that there will come a time when we can meet again under safer and happier circumstances.

Every blessing for the future,

Alan and Tracey Johnston.



Storehouse North Down in Lockdown



When lockdown started in mid March 2020, it had a massive impact on everyone's life. In the early weeks, we all struggled to come to terms with this new normal lifestyle. Churches closed, most people were confined to their homes, and people began to panic- buy essential food items in case they ran out of food and shops had to close. Storehouse North Down suddenly found their major source of supplies completely cut off!

Fortunately, due to the extraordinary generosity of their supporters in the



leadup to Christmas, Storehouse had accrued a good overstock of basic food items which enabled them to cope with the 25% increase in demand for food hampers, which arose in the first month of lockdown. As their shelves emptied and no new supplies came in, our loyal church congregations came to the rescue by setting up church carpark collection points. This entailed a few volunteers

bringing their cars on prearranged days to the church to allow people to donate safely from car to car boot without human contact! In cooperation with our friends at St Phillip and St James, we developed a fortnightly rota of volunteers to man the cars, and on average we have managed to fill three or four large cars with donated items at each collection.

The unexpected bonus of this process was that it created a welcome opportunity to greet and chat briefly with members of our church family whom we hadn't been able to see in our normal church life. It also allowed volunteers to give an update about the current situation in Storehouse.

The collection points were and still are a huge success, encouraging regular donations and allowing people to donate larger quantities of items than if they had to carry them to church. Sadly, the need for Storehouse continues to grow, with the economy moving into recession and job redundancies increasing every week, the future need for food banks can only continue to increase.

Storehouse will endeavour to keep church members updated about high-demand items which they require and are sincerely grateful for the continued support both in prayer and donations of food and money which enable them to continue to help the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our communities in North Down.

Lorna Anderson - Storehouse Volunteer



VACANCY UPDATE

Craig Russell

Rev Nigel Craig in the recent online service, concluding the series on the life of Joseph, reflected on the circuitous paths in which God can be at work in and through our lives. And so to an update on the vacancy....

We had originally planned to interview candidates to be the new Minister on Saturday 21st March, and could then have expected candidate(s) to be preaching to the congregation after Easter for the congregation to then vote at a selection meeting, and to have installed a new Minister by the end of June. During the week leading up to 21st March, it became clear that we would not be able to proceed, as all church activities and organisations were cancelled until further notice (the wider context of that being well known by now).

All vacancy procedures across the Presbyterian church were therefore placed on hold, until being allowed to proceed when those restrictions were relaxed from Wednesday 12th August.

Session met on Wednesday 19th August and has rearranged the interviews for Saturday 19th September.

After session considers and shortlists from that, those candidates go forward for approval of the Vacancy Commission and the Clerk of Assembly before we can let you know who we expect to be able to preach to the congregation.

The long established vacancy procedures remain largely unchanged notwithstanding the pandemic, so we expect that will still involve candidate(s) preaching to the congregation, and then a physical congregational selection meeting at which a vote takes place. We will provide further information in relation to that, as is relevant at that time.

Through, above and beyond all of this technical process, and the uncertainties it still involves, we continue to seek and rely on the wisdom and goodness of God in leading us as His people to the person of His choice.

We encourage you to continue to pray for this process of preparation of the new Minister and of ourselves, for the next period in the life of this congregation.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ben Harbinson, Christine McClenahan and Dawson Clarke for their extensive work putting the church services online. It has been very much appreciated.

A Year for Change

Anne White

In December 2019, I set myself two resolutions for 2020. One, to no longer



take flights, and two, to buy no new clothes for the coming year. I thought it would be challenging but felt sure I could see it out. I chose these resolutions purely for environmental reasons. Earlier in 2019, our first granddaughter was born and I started to think what the world would be like for Penny growing up, especially as there had been a lot of attention on environmental issues during

that year. Little did I know that by the end of the first quarter of 2020 most of us would be following at least one, if not both, of these resolutions!

I don't suppose many of us had given thought to what would happen in a pandemic or what the experience of lockdown would be like. The one thing that stands out for me during the first few weeks of lockdown was the joy of going out for a walk. I would normally swim three times a week but that was now out of bounds so walking became my mental and physical workout. Of course, it certainly helped that for the first few months the weather was glorious. Mostly, as I walked, I would pray about the many blessings God had given me and my family and for an end to this awful virus and for success in finding a vaccine against Covid 19. I also couldn't help but notice what a beautiful place we lived in. The birds would be singing, bees buzzing, butterflies going from flower to flower along the hedgerows. By summer, there was an abundance of colourful plants by the roadside. It certainly brought home the passage in the Bible about not worrying, Matthew 6:25-34.

I don't know how Covid 19 started, but one explanation is that the virus jumped from an animal, possibly in this case bats or pangolins to humans. We are told that as man increasingly encroaches into animal habitats, we run the risks of new infectious diseases. Is this a wake up call for us all? Are we caring for our environment as God declared in Genesis 1:28?

I think that this pandemic has shown me what a beautiful place I live in and I cannot continue to take this environment for granted. I need to reflect on my consumption of the earth's finite resources. So, I intend to stick with my resolutions for the foreseeable future. One tip, if you want to try not buying clothes for a while, unsubscribe to all emails from clothing stores, it helps to resist temptation. And why not try a staycation, I believe they are all the rage now!!

Listening to the Lord in Lockdown

Joe Campbell

Originally written for PCI Blog - June 2020

I am on my hour long daily walk along the coast near to where I live. It's early morning, the sea is rough but the sun is warm and the fresh air fills my lungs. Gulls are gliding along in the wind. About twelve brent geese feed on weed growing on the stone pier. They are gathering strength while waiting for the wind to change for their flight back to their breeding ground in northern Canada. They will be back to this shore in late September. The rasping call of the terns cuts through the breeze. These small gull-like summer visitors twisting, turning and diving, have just arrived, they will rear their young on small fish and sprats before returning to the southern hemisphere. Nearby there's a little grove of trees, where a song thrush sang for many mornings marking out his territory and calling a mate. Now he's quiet. Wild flowers are pushing through the ground once again. Nearby, in gardens, the reds, blues and yellows of spring shrubs lift my spirits, the winter is over, and spring has arrived.



I have been walking this route at this time since lockdown; every step is a reminder of God's wonderful creation. This is God's world. It does not belong to us. *'The earth is the Lord's and all it holds, the world and those who live in it. For God founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers'* (Psalm 24:1). We are to care for creation. Sadly we have not cared, but rather destroyed it by our greed and disregard for the ways of God. God has impressed on me creation's wonder, beauty and importance. We all - individuals, congregations and community - have to care much more if God's world is to work the way he intended. Perhaps this catastrophe will bring us to our senses.



Update: This otter was spotted where Twisel River flows into the lough at 9.30am on 3rd August; it is a positive sign of clean water and abundant fish.

In the Word

Back home now with an almost completely empty diary, I have more time to spend with the Lord. I cannot hide any longer in my busyness, but I wonder if, like me, your 'to-do' list shouts even louder, especially as you move towards the Lord. I know I need to be with the Lord, I do not say 'pray', that would assume I am only praying for people and situations, and sure that's a big part

of it. But now I have space for the spiritual practices that feed and nurture my soul, centring prayer, silence, Lectio Divina. I have always known God wanted my friendship and company, so this lockdown is a great opportunity. After



walking, I get to sit quietly with God. I have read Scripture slowly, firstly through the epistle to the Hebrews, described by David Gooding as ‘an unshakable kingdom’. Solid ground in this unstable world we are all experiencing. Then I read slowly again Paul’s letter to the Christians in Rome, remembering of course that those very churches would experience not one but two

pandemics, and because of their courage in caring for the sick, dying and dead, many people would turn to Christ and join the church.

This slow reflective prayerful reading takes time. In truth, however, the Scriptures have been reading me. Here is the inner spring of refreshing cool water I know I need. In the last chapter of Romans, Paul lists over twenty woman and men who have encouraged and served with him and wants them to know how much he appreciates and values them. I found myself listing the people who have shaped, encouraged and enabled me to walk in faith. Now I need to make sure those people know of my appreciation.



The earth is the Lord’s

In my everyday life

Over the last week or so, in Hebrews 13:1-7, I discovered a list of six things of which I need to be mindful. It seems timely advice during a pandemic:

1. **Be intentionally kind and loving to fellow believers.** That's people in my congregation. I need to keep connected to by phone, email and cards - the family of believers is crucial in these days.
2. **Love for strangers.** I understand that to mean new people I meet on my walks, or standing in line at the supermarket, or chemist shop. There is a lot of stress around. I need to allow for that, being less critical and judgemental of others. I need a new awareness and thankfulness for postal workers, shelf stackers and those who empty my bins.
3. **Remember those in prison.** This pandemic possesses real risks to prisoners and staff caring for them. More time shut in cells, no gym or communal meals and no visitors. The passage mentions others in need in the community and the storehouse collections across the churches in my town have allowed me and others to help at least in a small way.
4. **Marriage is to be honoured.** Interesting how a pandemic has put a strain on marriages. Today I heard that enquiries about divorce have gone up 40%. This passage is a reminder to me that I must never take my marriage for granted, and to search for ways even in pandemic to make my wife feel special.
5. **I am to guard against the love of money.** A very timely reminder to me that my congregation, our United Appeal and our charities Tearfund and Christian Aid and others all continue to function on greatly decreased resources. I have a responsibility here.
6. **I am to be grateful to spiritual leaders who have taught, shaped and supported me.** I need to play my part in supporting them by being loyal and finding ways to affirm them.

I have always known that I needed to use my hands as a way of relaxing. So during this lockdown I have completed some DIY tasks, usually late morning or afternoon and of course my share of household chores. Finally, each evening sitting with my wife in front of the cross and a lighted candle, lifting to the Lord the issues of the day locally, nationally and internationally and thanking him for our own and our family's good health.





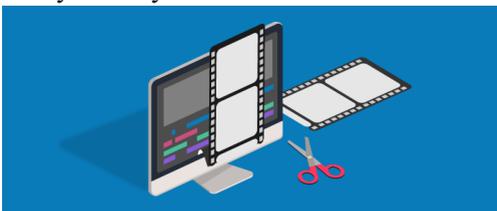
On the 17th March, just six days before lockdown, I received an email from Craig Russell which explained that he was worried about the imminent lockdown and how this would affect the church services. I have a corporate video making business and was delighted to help our church and serve God in this way. The initial plan was to do a live stream that could be accessed online but the problem was that you would only be getting the bare minimum of a service and we thought it was important to have hymns and different people contributing to the services.

The first recorded service was on the 22nd March and it was led by Rev. Alan Johnston and this was recorded in the church by Rory Eves and Andrew Gallagher. This turned out to be the first and last service recorded in the church. Lockdown came into effect the next day, so a new plan was formed. After a few quick lessons over the phone, Rev. Nigel Craig was able to record his part of the service on his computer and send it to me via wetransfer.com. This model was then copied so other members of the congregation were also able to record other parts of the service such as the Children's Talk and the Prayers of Intercession. This was a really key part of our online services as it allowed members of the congregation to contribute from the comfort of their own home. Dawson Clarke and Christine McClenahan were extremely important in getting the worship to continue by going through past services that Dawson had recorded, finding the hymns required and sending me the audio files. Once I had found my feet with the services, I asked Tim Crawford to record some short clips of him playing the piano which I would use to help

tie the service together.

To edit the services, I used a video editing software called Premiere Pro and it allowed me to create a template that kept a similar structure for the services. The first thing I would do is add in all the videos clips I had been sent and add in the audio mp3's of the hymns. This would give me some structure that I could work from. All the videos had to be "cut and trimmed" to remove any gaps and pauses at the beginning and end of the videos. The audio had to have a short fade in to remove any background noise and the videos had a short fade in opacity to allow a smooth flow between clips. Once I had all the videos prepared, it was time to add in the hymns. The words that we are used to seeing on the projector screens on Sunday mornings are made inside a program called Easy Worship. I wasn't able to get a copy of these, so all the words were made from scratch using graphics I sourced online, and words provided by Christine. These were made in Photoshop and imported into the project where I would listen to the hymns and change the image to the music. Once I had checked the video, I uploaded it to YouTube and sent it to Craig to do a final check. Once it passed his check, I set the video up to premiere on Sunday at 11am.

Some weeks it was as easy as that and only took a few hours of my time, but on most weeks it was less than straightforward! My aim was to get the final finished video sent to Craig by Friday evening. This worked well while I was on furlough, but once my work started up again, this became harder to do. On one occasion I remember sitting up until after 1am frantically editing to try and get the video ready for the morning! Turns out that you don't do your best editing at that time of the night as I discovered listening to the service in the morning when the audio dropped out at several points. I faced other issues as well, such as videos being too dark or too bright, audio being too loud or too quiet, scenic settings being too windy, files being sent in the wrong format, files being sent but not received, videos being sent late and, last but not least, my computer crashing! Thankfully, we were able to overcome all these challenges and deliver the online services that you were able to watch at home. When I first got Craig's email, I thought to myself that this is probably the most obvious call from God that I will ever get. I am so glad that I was able to help with the services and I am so grateful to everyone who has contacted me to say thank you.



GOD AND THE PANDEMIC

<https://spckpublishing.co.uk/god-and-the-pandemic>

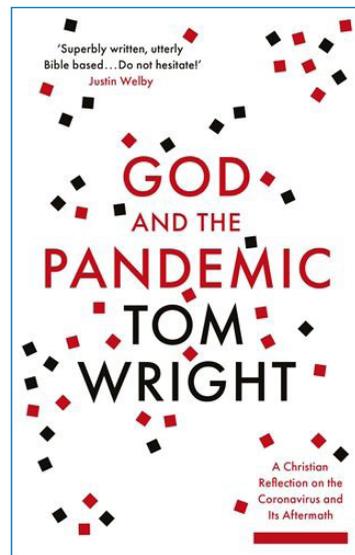
The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has been an overwhelming experience for many of us. It has impacted on all of us, young and old. What we once took for granted has been shaken. The weekly rhythms of school, work, family and worship have all been disrupted. Tragically, lives have been lost right across our society to this virus. Too many have lost jobs and face an uncertain future. The detrimental impact on the mental health caused by the virus will continue to unfold in the months and years ahead.

Amidst this bewildering time, I know I have been asking the question: where is God in the midst of all of this? As the devastating impact on our society in so many areas continues to ripple out, what should our response as Christians be?

In late July, Tom Wright published a short 70 page book considering these very questions entitled ‘God and the Pandemic’. Wright is a world-renowned New Testament scholar who has been blessed with a brain the size of a planet. However, he has the relatively rare gift of being able to communicate with ordinary people. This is an accessible book to anyone wanting to consider the spiritual challenges posed by the pandemic from a thoroughly biblical viewpoint.

Wright does not try and offer simplistic or facile answers. He helpfully deconstructs some of the deeply unhelpful claims which have been made in some quarters around the pandemic. Claims that God has allowed this pandemic to unfold to lead people to repentance, or to allow some to show and develop their virtues, are rightly rejected. God does not need a pandemic to achieve these ends and it would be difficult to worship a God who allowed such worldwide suffering for such a purpose.

The reality is that we cannot rationalise why this is happening. We simply do not know, and we should resist efforts to claim that we can understand it. As Wright helpfully notes, “evil is an intruder in God’s creation. Any attempt to analyse what it is, why it’s allowed or what God does with it- apart from the clear, strong statement that God overcomes it through Jesus’ death for sinners- is not only trying to put wind into a bottle; it is supposing that we can imagine an orderly universe in which ‘evil’ has an appropriate, allowable place.” (p57) So how should Christians respond? For Wright, our initial response should be marked by lament. This is a thoroughly biblical idea, but one which many of



us struggle with. In our spiritual life together, we often feel we need to put on a brave face or pretend everything is alright even if in reality we are falling apart. Our worship services can struggle to find space for lament; it can even be felt to be an inappropriate way to speak to God. Yet throughout the Bible lament is common: especially in the Psalms, many of which are clearly written from a place of deep pain and loss.

Wright puts the need for such a response this way: “In a time of acute crisis, when death sneaks into houses and shops, when you may feel healthy yourself but you may be carrying the virus without knowing it, when every stranger on the street is a threat, when we go around in masks, when churches are shut and people are dying with nobody to pray by their bedside - this is a time for lament. For admitting we don’t have easy answers. For refusing to use the crisis as a loudspeaker for what we’d been wanting to say in any case. For weeping at the tomb of our friends. For the inarticulate groaning of the Spirit. ‘Rejoice with those who rejoice,’ said Paul, ‘and weep with those who weep.’ Yes, and the world is weeping right now.” (p53)

This truly is a time to mourn for what has been lost and to bring to God the pain that is being felt in our lives and in our society. Lament in and of itself, however, is not the only response Wright points to. He suggests as Christians in this time we need to be “sign-producers for God’s Kingdom.” We should, through our actions and words, seek to show signs of the new creation which is to come. Of course, in doing so we should not ignore health advice; doing so would actually have the opposite effect. Instead, we should be a community marked by the hope we have in Jesus. We should, in whatever we can, seek to be bringers of healing and light in a dark time.

Mark Baillie



The life I never expected

Ruth Bromley

I am a full-time working mum.

I have worked for the Presbyterian Church as their Children's Development Officer for twelve and half years and for the last four and half of them that has involved juggling being mummy to Bess.

That all changed on 23rd March this year.

I had one morning of working at the kitchen table while Brendan worked at his desk in the living room, while trying to give Bess enough to do to at least be able to read one email before an interruption! This is something that I know many have juggled for months – working, home schooling, parenting. At lunchtime that day I got a call to say that I was furloughed and I shut down my computer.

My experience of furlough has been very positive. I expected to grieve not



being able to do my job. I do miss my colleagues and the work we do, but I realised that I had an opportunity that otherwise I would never have had. In normal life, being a full-time mummy is not an option.

However, for the last twenty weeks (and continuing) I have been given the opportunity to feed full-time into Bess's life – both in terms of education, playtime and also spiritually. We

have spent nearly every day together, mostly just the two of us as Brendan has continued to work. I have discovered the incredible privilege of walking with Bess on that journey and being proactive in helping her to think about and process life through the lens of faith.

In Deuteronomy 6, God gives Moses commands for the Israelites to live by. In verses 5-9, it says:

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

In work, I often remind others of this passage but I now had the opportunity and the challenge to live this out 24/7 with Bess. What a privilege – and a responsibility!

I wouldn't say that what we have done is super spiritual. We have simply brought God into our everyday. At first, I had to work at remembering to bring God into conversations, but very quickly it became second nature. As

we explored the themes that we received from nursery school, walked through Redburn, read books and did our bedtime Bible stories and prayers, we have seen Bess's faith grow and her questions increase! Then a couple of weeks ago, sitting in our caravan in Donegal, we had the privilege of listening to Bess pray to invite Jesus into her heart. Bess already loved Jesus but this was another step on her



journey of faith. I am so thankful for the time that I have had over five months to share faith with her everyday. And I am ready to continue that in the months and years to come.

Can I encourage you to share your faith with your children at home? Talk about Jesus in the everyday and even if it feels a bit weird at the start, persevere. Our children's faith is so important.

And as we return to church in the coming weeks, our children need the opportunity to be a part of that as well. However, our children's ministry may look a little different in the months ahead than it looked before. Our children need to learn about Jesus as much as they ever did and as parents and leaders we need to think about how to do that safely, responsibly and creatively.

In Mark's Gospel, there is the well-known story of how the children came to Jesus and He blessed them. When the disciples tried to stop the children coming to Jesus, He said to them,

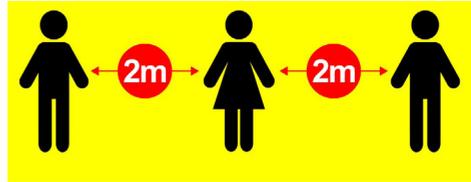
Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Both at home and in church we need to be mindful of not hindering our children coming to Jesus and having the opportunity to learn about and take the next step in their faith. How we do that is something that needs to be considered carefully and imaginatively.

Supporting Folk by Phone

Kathleen Spence

Six months ago, we hadn't heard of Coronavirus (Covid 19), which has brought about isolation, social distancing, continuous hand washing and the phrase 'is your journey essential'. These words have made an indelible mark in my mind, and life has been challenging. Mentally and emotionally, I feel like I've been on a roller coaster (of which I am not a fan). The virus has brought different challenges to many, depending on the family setting, and one of my biggest challenges is working from home, listening and supporting folk by phone. Whether they have been bereaved, or are in hospital, care homes or even just at home, I found it frustrating not being able to give them a comforting hug or laying a hand on their shoulder and praying for them and their situation. But despite the frustrations, I continue to find serving God pastorally a great privilege.



Our days may be filled with uncertainty and we are living life differently, but in the midst of the uncertainty let our days be filled with hope. Let us remain rooted in loving God and holding on to the one who promises that He will comfort you, He will never fail you nor forsake you and when you feel overwhelmed by everything, He will give you strength and lift you up because nothing will ever separate you from His love. Trust Him for whatever the future holds, have courage each day in the knowledge that God is with you, trust Him, accept Him and rely on Him. These are the words I have had to hold on to as I have lived my own personal experience of these past months, especially at the beginning of all the change, when at times I had feelings of loneliness and being overwhelmed by the responsibility of my work in supporting others from a distance.



Coping with technology!! Let's just say I didn't cope. Everyone was into 'zoom' but the only 'zooming' I did was in and out of the supermarket. But at least I was able to tune into the Sunday services and see everyone, that much technically I did achieve!

I am very appreciative of the phone calls I received from members of the church and thankful for my Tuesday chats with Nigel Craig and for his support regarding

pastoral issues.

When we face a situation such as we are facing today our first response may be to turn our thoughts inward in panic, but if we trust God our response should be to look outward in love and care for each other and look upward in hope, for we know we have God with us.

So choose faith not fear!

Committee Update

Christina Baillie



On behalf of Church Committee, I would like to update members on the current situation for several building projects. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, several pieces of work which were planned, have been put on hold. These include the project to replace the Main Kitchen in the Worship Centre, maintenance work to the Church Tower and replacing the stair lift in the Worship Centre. While these projects were postponed, they still remain of high importance and would benefit from the continuing support of members as Committee considers when the proposed work can resume. In regard to the Manse renovations, the majority of the work has been completed, with only a few finishing touches required! The Committee are grateful for the support given to the Building Fund which has allowed this comprehensive renovation to take place and which will demonstrate a strong welcome to the new minister.

The Committee would encourage members to continue to remember giving towards the Building Fund as many of these projects continue to be pressing on the horizon.

Lockdown in the McClenahan household

Christine McClenahan



If you were to ask me what I missed most during lockdown, especially in the early days, it was surely friends and family. We welcomed our third grandchild into the world on 25th March just as the world was changing dramatically as Coronavirus hit. We endured fleeting glances from a safe distance until restrictions eased and we could enjoy garden visits from Chris and the baby and then latterly house visits when we finally got to cuddle little Leo for the first time. Tears of joy were shed, I can tell you.

So many things were taken from us during those days - freedom to go where we pleased, see who we wanted, even boring everyday tasks such as a trip out for the groceries became laden with worry. We can surely be grateful for what was probably the driest, sunniest spring Northern Ireland has seen in many years. It felt like the Lord empathised with us and blessed us with sunshine. For me, alongside not seeing family, I have missed the joy of singing alongside my church family and in the small consort choir I belong to at St Andrew's, Balligan. There is no greater pleasure to be had than to stand shoulder to shoulder with others, raising our voices in praise. I think that the last few months have given me a greater appreciation of what that really means. On Sunday mornings Paul and I sing along heartily with the online service, though he says I put him off with my harmonies!!

There is an aspect of this experience that calls me to wonder if God is teaching me patience amongst many other things. Psalm 130 says "*I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I put my hope.*" Perhaps God has

*I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in
His word I put my hope.*

used this strange time to help me understand what it means to ‘be still’. The frantic to and fro of life ceased for a while and I was forced to quiet my mind and heart; to stop striving and to lean on God more fully than I maybe had before. The words of a contemporary worship song have played in my mind over recent days –

*“Still, my soul be still and do not fear
Though winds of change may rage tomorrow.
God is at your side, no longer dread
The fires of unexpected sorrow.*

*God, You are my God,
And I will trust in You and not be shaken
Lord of peace renew a steadfast spirit within me
To rest in You alone.”*

Our online services have been an interesting learning curve for me. I would describe myself as technologically inept, to put it mildly, and I take this opportunity to express my deepest thanks to Ben Harbinson and Dawson Clarke. Ben, for his expertise in putting together the various recordings for each part of the service and editing them together into a seamless act of worship, and Dawson, with his vast collection of audio files from previous services, enabled us to imagine we were singing together and that, for me, made our online services very special. It brought familiar faces to mind as we watched and sang along from the sofa each Sunday. I cannot wait to walk into our church building and greet you all once more. I cannot wait to lift up my voice alongside yours in joyful song. But for the time being I am learning to be still; to wait on the Lord and my fervent prayer is that soon and very soon *“all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well”* (Julian of Norwich).



Picture of Leo in our garden in June

HOPE AND PERSEVERANCE

Mark Shields

How many new COVID-19 cases? How many related deaths? What age-groups and categories are most affected? How much PPE?....

Throughout months of instability and uncertainty, our need for clarity has seen us fixated on figures - (facts and figures after all, seem to go hand in hand). Indeed, our ongoing fascination with statistics seems to have become almost obsessive. Inclusivity and diversity ratios; hottest days on record; number of pedometer steps per day; number of instagram likes. Sometimes they add to our confusion, sometimes they give a better sense of proportion and, once in a while, they jolt us awake to the world's injustices, inequalities and imbalances. On the 18th July 2020, the worldwide death toll from the corona virus, since the start of the outbreak, stood at around 750,000. That day alone, 7383 people died from the virus (only four days in the previous six months showed a higher figure). On the same day around 26,000 people died of cancer. Efforts to develop a vaccine for COVID-19 began as soon as the virus was identified. Development will cost upwards of 200 million dollars. On the 19th July (4,496 Coronavirus deaths), the United Arab Emirates launched an orbiter to study daily and seasonal weather cycles on Mars. Depending on its orbit, Mars is between 35 million and 250 million miles from Earth. The launch of this craft alone cost 200 million dollars.(disturbingly, one of the scientists involved, spoke of Mars' surface in terms of 'real estate'!) Eleven days later, on the 30th July (6002 Coronavirus deaths), NASA launched its Mars 2020 Rover. The total mission is expected to cost 2.46 billion dollars. Plans have long been in preparation for a manned mission to Mars, the estimated cost of which is 500 billion dollars.



There is something shocking and yet typical of the contradictoriness of human behaviour revealed by the contemplation of these figures. That such huge sums of money should be dedicated to researching the uninhabitable atmosphere of a distant planet, when

our own is buffeted by a deadly virus, extreme weather conditions from global warming, crumbling economies, polarized societies, protests and uprisings, political instability, wars and endless migrations. Undoubtedly, the

space programs have yielded many astonishing discoveries and technological advances that have, as a by-product, transformed, enhanced and prolonged our lives. But even the boundlessly enthusiastic presenter of 'The Sky at Night', Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock, voiced what many of us think; that "*we should learn to look after this planet before we consider spreading to a new one.*" There is no little irony in these two Mars missions being given the names 'Hope' and 'Perseverance'. The choice of these names reveals an admirable aspiration, but the missions seem rather to speak of a faltering hope in our collective future on Earth and a lack of perseverance in focussing efforts to restore a necessary balance here. They also suggest that our hopes for and perseverance towards human wellbeing lie firmly in our technological efforts. Where technology does benefit us, it ought to be focused on real human need and unhindered by social and economic factors. But, alone, it can't rescue us from fear, greed, mistrust and despondency. Hope and perseverance are more than mere human aspirations. They are inextricably linked with faith, and, like faith, they are gifts of grace, stimulated and perfected under testing circumstances. We could hardly be living in a time of more testing circumstances.



Our planet's population has suffered the decimating effects of plague and pestilence many times in the past and, even if instant communication and ease of travel have made it strikingly global, the sense of a world in chaos is not new, nor is the connection of human suffering with our own failure of responsibility.

During the early Christian centuries, war, famine and disease were never far away. In the third century AD, Dionysius of Alexandria judged the epidemics

raging at the time of the degeneration and moral collapse of the Roman empire to be the result of man's violence and hatred. In the same century, the poet Commodian, perhaps prescient of our own times, extended the impact more widely when he wrote, *"The planets are judged along with us. The dwellers of heaven are troubled as the ruination of the world is accomplished."* Some have sensed a divine judgement in our current predicament and it can't be doubted, whether one promotes such an explication or not, that nature seems to be biting back at our complacency and hubris. Eusebius, writing in the fourth century, lamented that *"death waged a desolatory war with these two weapons, famine and pestilence."* Another century on, and things obviously hadn't improved, for St. Jerome writes, *"The entire world is falling into ruin and, alas, our sins do not crumble with us we live as if we were to die tomorrow and we build as if we were forever to live in this world."*



It is true that a sense of God's judgement is never far from these writers' thoughts, and their 'ethos of melancholy' has earned such writings the term 'apocalyptic'. But, while they often denounce humankind's intent to manage it's affairs without remembrance of the Creator, their emphasis is as much on

change and transformation as on judgement. *"When will the air become pure again?"* asks Dionysius, much as we might enquire today. For these writers, the catastrophe of the outer world had its complement in an inner awareness of personal need in which the individual must contemplate what the right attitude ought to be in the face of the world's judgement. This moment was informed by the figure of the suffering Christ. Commodian expresses God's radical solution to our critical state. *"When the Exalted One was made lowly, hell yielded so that Adam might rise up from his death. The Lord went down to the tomb out of compassion for his creation. And thus, in a hidden manner, he depleted the strength of death."* Thus, mysteriously, as Hans Urs von Balthasar has expressed it, the human downfall becomes in its entirety an expression of divine love. Christ, 'the suffering servant', incarnates simultaneously divine wrath and divine mercy, judgement and transformation. God identifies with the world's catastrophe to bring about its transformation. In all of their exhortations, these writers urge an attitude of meekness, quiet obedience, patience and trust.



It is no different for our own age. The poet and Biblical scholar Amos Wilder

noted that *“the Gospel arose out of that kind of radical break in human affairs when old customs and continuities were undermined.”* Such is our time. We have been again made conscious of our instability and finitude, our subjection to death and bondage to forces of self-destruction. As a result, many have experienced what Paul Tillich referred to as *“an estrangement from our true being”*. For Tillich, this was actually a hopeful moment. *“It is a person in anxiety, guilt and despair”*, he writes, *“who is the object of God’s unconditional acceptance.”*

Tillich’s criticism of the Nazis forced him out of Germany in 1933. The Romanian poet Paul Celan wasn’t so fortunate. His mother and father were killed by the Nazis and while he himself managed to escape from a forced labour camp, the terrible consequences haunted him for the rest of his life. He had good reason to feel hopeless of the world’s condition. In one of his periods of despair, a fellow poet, Ingeborg Bachmann, wrote to him sternly but sensibly. *“I do not think the world can change, but we can. That is where you have to start.”* It’s good advice.

In our present concerns for our health, employment, finances, fellowship and so on, it is hard to generate hope and perseverance. But while we may doubt that the world can change; we know that we can, and that we are not alone. The writer to the Hebrews encourages us, *“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”* And this, in its turn, yields even greater fruit, for St. Paul reminds us that *“Faith and love spring up from the hope that is in you.”*

Faith, hope, love. And we are told that the greatest of these is love.

“Our labour always is to learn through suffering to love.... to love even that which lets us suffer.”

We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield.

In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name.

Let your unfailing love surround us , Lord, for our hope is in you alone.

Psalm 33 v 20-22

Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God!

I will praise Him again - my Saviour and my God.

Psalm 43 v 5

Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, in Jesus Christ, is calling us.

Philippians 3 v 13 -14



FAMILY LIFE

Richard McCall

McCall family life over the past few months has seen, like most of us, a lot of change. Alison and I have both been working from home since mid-March. I've been supporting my team as they've made their own adjustments to home-working life. Everything was alien to me and my colleagues for the first few weeks, but gradually our working practices have adapted and work life feels a lot more normal – even if busier - with everything depending on calls and a reliable internet connection.

Alison has adjusted to working from home as well, together with adapting to some home-schooling. Over the past few months she has been furloughed a couple of times, which has been beneficial, both with reducing the pressure of occupying Matthew, Mark and Molly and also with increased demand from her online healthy lifestyle businesses.

Our three children have appeared to adapt very quickly and very well to changes in their schooling and the restrictions on what they could do over the long spring and summer days. Despite their apparent ease of adaptation to new ways of life, there have been indicators of the stress and anxiety that they face in coming to terms with the impact of the virus. Life has been easier for the boys as they have been able to socialise online with some of their friends, particularly as they play their computer games. Molly has been a little more isolated as she is still a little young for online social media. She has still managed very well and has enjoyed her creative playtime and improved at several board games.

Towards the start of lockdown, we used a strong routine to help us adjust – a daily walk, work and home schooling and the novelty of sitting down to all the family meals together. With the combination of the adrenaline in reacting to the lockdown and the uncharacteristically dry weather in the early weeks, we seemed to achieve lots of jobs around our home and garden. As things have progressed and we have become more used to our new normal, the strong routine seemed to melt. Work and home life appears to have got busier and time has started to fly by. We've celebrated four birthdays in our house, welcomed Mark's two pet rabbits from his birthday and managed a few days of holiday at the north coast to get a rest from work and online life.

Against the negatives of COVID – with its devastating impact on its victims and the panic buying that left hand sanitiser, toilet roll and pasta as rare luxury items – there have been some positives. Most notable of the positives is that we have definitely had more time together as a family. We've also focussed more on the opportunities to help others out and appreciating the sacrifices that our key workers have made.

I suspect that one of the challenges for us all, as we continue to move forward, is to merge the best aspects of pre-COVID life with the positive changes that we have seen during-COVID. For me, that draws a parallel into our Christian journey. From Peterson's translation of Paul's letter to the Ephesians, in chapter 4, *"everything connected with that old way of life has to go... ..take on an entirely new way of life – a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you."*

Although these are unusual times, and the changes we have gone through are very unsettling, there is great comfort for us all from the words of Jesus, as Matthew captured them in chapter 6, *"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. ...do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself."*

If COVID has taught us anything, it's that none of us knows what tomorrow will bring, but as a family we will continue to trust God and to look for the opportunities to live out a Christian lifestyle.



Youth Ministry - The Lord continues to work

Graeme Thompson

“We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.” Proverbs 16:9 (NLT)

This was the ‘Daily Connect’ verse on Tuesday 18th August, a daily text message sent out to members of the Connect group. That evening, the first ‘in person’ gathering of young people in the congregation for over 5 months



was planned, and the verse set up the intended devotional, highlighting our need to trust God in uncertain times. Ironically, as God *“sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous”* he sent rather a lot of it that evening causing postponement of the gathering! We should not be surprised; if the past few months have taught us anything, it is that we control nothing – not the weather, not the impact of Covid, and not the spiritual lives of our young people. However, our responsibility towards those young people and their spiritual

lives remains and, although ‘normal’ youth ministry has paused, the Lord *“determines our steps”* and continues to work.

In addressing the impact of lockdown, it was important to find a way to keep connected to our young people and continue to input into their spiritual development. However, like all areas of life, sudden huge changes gave no opportunity to plan and with limited resources, we had to be realistic. We continue to be very grateful for the few hours of Andrew McCaw’s time and our partnership with Young Life, without whom much less would have been possible. But the Lord continues to work.

Initial contact with families provided an assessment of what might be needed and possible, as well as the necessary accountability and communication with parents. Connect developed weekly online meetings, alternating before and after church, including chat, quizzes, sermon discussions, sharing Bible verses, and ‘Person to Person’, focusing on lives of well-known Christians who inspire us. In addition to the aforementioned Daily Connect, the young people were also given a new study Bible and C. S. Lewis books. Attendance and engagement was very good, with a core of fourteen young people all largely connected, and six new Year 8s joining us at the end of June, making this is the strongest Sunday morning group in the congregation for some considerable time. The Lord continues to work.

Pistop also continued to meet online, with relaxed activities to keep building community amongst the group. Here, there was also encouragement by the way young have engaged, including the use of online Alpha material and online Bible studies. Young Life found a relatively easy transition to use of the digital opportunities, allowing them to keep good contact with combined Young Life/Wyldlife online meetings. However, there were challenges in this format and recent weeks have seen a very effective return to socially-distanced contact work with individuals and small groups, which will continue for the time being. The Lord continues to work.

Another opportunity was to start an online Bible study for 18-25s which proved very successful. There has been nothing quite like this for some time and a small but dedicated group grappled with the message of Colossians for our current time. There is potential to build on this perfect example of how opportunity has come from the challenges of this time. The Lord continues to work.

In the uncertainty of the weeks and months ahead, we do not know what form our engagement with the young people will take. However, we look to God to help us use the opportunities he gives us during these changed times, as the Lord continues to work. Please continue to pray for all the young people and leaders.





NEWS FROM THE FRONTLINE

My name is Amy Mulligan and for more than twenty eight years, I have worked for the NHS, first as a nurse and then as a midwife. For the past twelve years I've been a midwife in the Ulster Hospital. The word midwife means 'with women' and this has been especially important during these very strange and uncertain months. Communication with women and their partners is key, even though we have to wear masks, aprons and gloves at all times. We just have to try a bit harder and make sure we smile with our eyes! Since March, women have been unable to have their partners with them for many appointments, scans and during the early part of labour. In addition, partners may only stay for a very short time after their baby has been born. As midwives, we have tried to make the women feel supported during these times, and not alone.



The fear of this new virus, the effects that it may have during pregnancy and on a newborn, are significant. Midwives and our extended multidisciplinary team have had an important role in giving information to women, reassuring and guiding them along their journey. But our role is still to be with women, to work with them in partnership and care for them.

I had Covid 19 back in March. It was a scary time for both my family and for me and it took about ten weeks until I felt fully recovered. I felt guilty at putting my children, husband and parents-in-law at risk, by bringing this virus into our home. Thankfully, apart from my husband Julian having a few days with no sense of taste and smell, they all remained healthy! But it was great to be able to get back to work and continue to do my small part within the NHS.

My name is Anna Galway and I am a staff nurse; I have been working in the Western General Hospital of Edinburgh for the past year. I work in an acute general medicine ward; this means that we get a wee bit of everything through the door including social admissions, infections, alcohol withdrawal and diabetic care, etc. During the Covid pandemic we remained a 'green ward' this

meant we did not get patients with Corona virus, we had to remain open as a general ward for those being admitted with other illnesses or to take care of patients who may previously have had corona and then tested negative.



The past six months have been quite heavy on the ward. Whilst the ward had fewer patients, those who have been admitted are much more sick.

During this time, we had to cancel all visiting in the hospital, only allowing visits to patients who were receiving end of life care. This was difficult, reassuring families frustrated at not getting in to see their family member or scared for them having to be in hospital.

We have spent the whole time wearing face masks and other personal protective equipment while caring for our patients. This is challenging as the majority of our patients are elderly, so understanding us through a mask is difficult and for confused patients not being able to see our faces can be intimidating. It was heart-breaking during this when patients were with us for several weeks who could not see their families had barely any human contact during in this time as staff had to try to socially distance at the same time, there was a noticed impact on mental health in the ward. Despite every form of exhaustion we have experienced, we do the best we can to keep spirits high in the ward and take care of each other.

During these difficult times let us remember all those who care for the sick and suffering.

A Prayer for Carers, Nurses and Doctors

Lord Jesus, who healed the sick and gave them new life,
be with doctors, nurses and carers,
as they act as agents of your healing touch.
In desperate times, keep them strong yet loving;
and when their work is done,
be with them in their weariness and in their tears.
Amen.

ANCHOR THE DAY WITH GOD

“Very early in the morning, when it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed.” Mark 1 v 35

One of the positive outcomes of lockdown withdrawal for many, has been a more dedicated habit of personal prayer and devotion. As many aspects of life begin to return to pre-lockdown routine, let’s not allow these times of personal communion with God to slip away.

Michael Baughen, whose name may be familiar to some of the congregation as one-time Rector of All Souls, Langham Place, subsequent Bishop of Chester and composer of the music for the popular hymn ‘Lord, for the years’, celebrated his 90th Birthday in July of this year. He was asked, *“How have you sustained and maintained your spiritual walk over all those years?”* His reply - *“Fundamentally, unless you anchor the day with God, you’re going to be off kilter. The first thing I do on wakening, before I get up, I say, ‘Father, thank you for your wonderful creation; Lord Jesus, thank you for your salvation; Holy Spirit, thank you for your inspiration. I love you, I am your child, your servant. Alleluia!’.”*

Martin Luther wrote: *“It is well to let prayer be the first employment in the early morning and the last in the evening.”*

Here are some morning prayers you may find helpful in maintaining the habit of prayer to ‘anchor’ your day.

SUNDAY

Father, we rejoice that you have given us Sunday:
the day that we remember that you created the world and all that is within it,
the day when Jesus was raised from the dead and death and hell laid waste,
the day in which all things were made and re-made.

Father, may we approach Sunday with longing and expectation;
as the hungry seek for bread,
so may we yearn for word and sacrament;
save our worship from all that is trivial;
rooted in the reality of the world in which we live,
may it yet glimpse the glory of your presence,
and stand in awe at the light of your holiness;
may we sense the presence of all who have gone before us,
hearing in our own songs the echo of unseen heaven’s praise. Amen.

MONDAY

Lord, we offer you ourselves this day, for the work you want accomplished, for the people you want us to meet, for the word you want to be uttered, for the silence you want to be kept, for the places you want us to enter, for the new ways you want pioneered.

Go with us along the way, Lord, and enable us to realise your presence at all times and in all places, our loving Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

TUESDAY

Lord, I accept this new day as your gift,
and I enter it now with eagerness;
I open my senses to perceive you;
I lend my energies to things of goodness and joy.
Amen

WEDNESDAY

All through this day, O Lord,
by the power of your quickening Spirit,
let me touch the lives of others for good,
whether through the word I speak, the prayer I speak
or the life I live. Amen.

THURSDAY

O Lord, whose way is perfect: help us this day, always to trust in your goodness; that walking with you in faith, and following you in all simplicity, we may possess quiet and contented minds, and cast all our care on you, because you care for us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

FRIDAY

Father, grant to us this day to do whatever duty lies before us with cheerfulness and sincerity of heart. Help us in all things fearlessly to do what

we know to be right; save us from hypocrisy and pretence. Make us truthful, unselfish and strong. And so bring us to the ending of the day unashamed and with a quiet mind. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY

O Lord, my God, what is your will for me today? What task have you for me? What opportunity have you placed in my way? Open my eyes that I may discover your will. Save me from wasting the new day. May I turn it into eternal profit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AN EVENING PRAYER

Send your peace into my heart, O Lord, that I may be contented with the mercies of this day and confident of your protection for this night; and having forgiven others, even as you forgive me, may I go to rest in tranquillity and trust. May your name be praised, glorified and exalted above all for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.





For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Romans 12:4-5



That together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:6