

Newsletter Feb 2020

MUSINGS FROM THE MANSE

Greetings (on a snowy day):

Spring time! It's just around the corner; I'm sure of it and the experts agreed on 2 February. After a long hard January, it has to be!

The days feel warmer, or did; if a bit wet (snowy) and windy at times. the snowdrops are (were) nearly in full bloom.

Spring is a time of new life, new creation, new energy. It's a time when God seems to touch the earth. And yet, there may still be a few cold, snowy days before winter is completely done for this year. It reminds me of a favorite hymn of mine — that says "My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation."

Whether it's a long winter we're lamenting, or troubles with our health, finances or our family, above all those lamentations, we can hear God speaking. At times, it may seem far away, but there is a Word, a Song that hails a new creation. God cares about us and God cares about the Church and God plans for a new creation.

The song continues: "Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing; it finds an echo in my soul—how can I keep from singing?" It may not be a melodic tune, it may be using your voice to speak up and speak out for what you believe in, whether that be God, or family, or selfless care for fellow human beings.

It's tempting to remain quiet, but just think of the difference you can make. Music has helped people through times of suffering and slavery, grief and gratitude, expressing peace and hope, and I am often grateful that the tunes and melodies can express what mere words cannot, be it grief, or hope, doubt, or joy.

Indeed! How can I keep from singing?!

No matter how you think you may sound, the Psalmist says, make a joyful noise!

Keep singing, or speaking, writing, caring...

Suzie

COCKBURNSPATH SHOP & POST OFFICE

Our thoughts are with Sandra at this difficult time and with all the staff as they prepare to close the village shop on 29 February.

Many thanks to all who have shown support as the village looks for a way ahead. Please keep in touch as we move forward, details on village website or facebook page, or contact Jennie Sutton on jenniesuttoncc@gmail.com.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY 6 MARCH 2020

Rise, Take up your Mat and Walk

Prepared by Christians in Zimbabwe

SERVICE TO BE HELD AT 7pm IN INNERWICK PARISH CHURCH

Refreshments to follow

Please contact Suzie if you would like to be involved or help with refreshments

CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

Many thanks to all who came along and supported our annual Coffee Morning in the Church Hall or contributed in any way (baking, serving, prizes, etc). An amazing total of £691.50 was raised for church funds, for which we are truly grateful!

GRIEF AND LOSS

Shared from a Church Group helping one another through times of Grief and Loss...

We ask only that you be a listener, share as you are comfortable, and keep what is said confidential. We'd like to share some things we have learned about how you can help a friend who has suffered this kind of loss.

- Please stay connected. Don't assume the grieving person needs to be alone. There are also times when they need company.
- Please say: "I am sorry for your loss." Or say, "I've been thinking of you." It's also ok to admit you don't know what to say.
- Don't tell the grieving person the story of when you lost your relative, and don't say "I know just what you're going through." You don't, because everyone's journey is different.
- Do share your memories of the person we lost. It's good to know he or she is not forgotten.
- Invite us! To your party, your shopping trip, your dinner out. Sometimes we'll have to say no but it's nice to be asked.
- Accept that we are where we are. Some people need a long time to grieve and others need a shorter time. There is no "normal" grief process.
- Don't say "Call me if you need anything.", ask what they need.
- Don't say "We'll have lunch sometime" and then fail to follow through.
- Say, "Would you like me to go to the store for you?" "Could I help you clean your house?" "Let's get coffee together this afternoon."

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SPRING SONGS OF PRAISE

SUN 8 MARCH 7pm

Cockburnspath Church

DATES FOR THE DIARY

(Sundays unless otherwise noted)

1 March Cradle Roll Service,
Innerwick Church, 9.30am,
Messy Church, Church Hall, 4-6pm

FRIDAY 6 March Dunbar Area Churches

World Day of Prayer Service

Innerwick Church, 7pm

8 March Cradle Roll Services,
Oldhamstocks Church, 9.30am &
Cockburnspath Church, 11am

8 March SONGS OF PRAISE Service
Cockburnspath Church, 7pm

15 March Peoples Service AND
Stated Annual Meeting,
Cockburnspath Church, 10.30am

29 March (5th Sunday) Joint Service
Oldhamstocks Church, 10.30am

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SUNDAY

Mon-Wed Services in Dunbar

Mon-Fri Lunches at Belhaven

9 April Maundy Thursday Communion
Oldhamstocks 7pm
10 April Good Friday Service
Cockburnspath 7pm
12 April Easter Sunday Service
Innerwick 10.30am (Egg Hunt to follow)

26 April Joint Communion Service
Oldhamstocks, 10.30am

ALL ARE WELCOME!

CHRISTIAN AID SOUP AND PUDDING

SUNDAY 10 MAY, 12.15pm
Cockburnspath Church Hall
Soup and Pudding (Bring and Share)
Fundraising Lunch for Christian Aid
Donations Welcome
(following the 11am church service)

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal 2019

A big thank you to all who of those who filled shoeboxes for Blythswood Care in 2019. The contents of these boxes are greatly appreciated by young and old in poorer countries. The boxes were sent to Ukraine, Hungary, Kosovo, Pakistan and other Asian countries. While the children love the toys and books, the parents appreciate toiletries and warm clothes and are happy to know that someone cares for them. (B. Russell)

SMARTIE TUBES

Over £1200 was collected through our Smartie Tubes collection in 2019, and over £4600 has been given in total since this simple fundraising project began! That's a lot of chocolate eaten, and a lot of 20p coins saved! Thanks so much! Jean Virtue always has more tubes (full or empty!)

Concerns or Questions, Please Contact: Rev Dr Suzie Fletcher,
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Facebook Page: Parish of Dunglass
Margaret Young, Session Clerk