

September 2020 Magazine



*All Saints Scottish Episcopal
Church
Drymen Road, Bearsden*



Rector

Rev Kirstin Freeman

E-mail revkirstin@freemanhome.co.uk

All other contacts can be found in the printed copy of the magazine

Web Site: <http://bearsden.church.scot>

Web Site Co-ordinator: Janet Stack (janet.stack@btinternet.com)

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The cover photo is of The Round Church at Orphir, Orkney

Dear Friends

Paul and I took a very cautious trip up to Orkney to get some much-needed away time. Once the anxieties of the journey were over, we had plenty time to relax and visit some of our favourite places which were mostly deserted. Indeed if it wasn't for shopping I am not sure we would have seen more than a handful of other people for the whole time, proving to us that our choice to actually take the plunge and go was, for us, the right one. There will be lots of deciding over the coming weeks and months about which are the right choices for each of us and I am certain that each of us will make slightly different choices which relate to our own circumstances.

One of the places we returned to was the Round Church at Orphir, it is probably one of Orkney's lesser known sites but an important one. It was built after Earl Hakon made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to make amends for the crime of ordering the death of St Magnus; it is thought to be round to reflect the round church of the Holy Sepulchre there. Built in the early 12th century on Earl Hakon's return much of it has gone now, however it remains a special spot. As you stand in the ruins you can hear the waves on the beach not far away, and the apse has been beautifully designed as the most incredible amplification chamber meaning a whisper is clearly heard even some distance away. I read the Gospel reading for Sunday 23rd August in it, with the sun shining but unfortunately the wind blowing, so it wasn't useable for the service as I had hoped. That Gospel included the time when Jesus gives Simon the name Peter, or Rock, saying he will be instrumental in the building of the Church. I found myself musing on how that church no longer stood, so many churches no longer stand, churches currently are not being used, and yet the message continues to be passed on. Our faith is not in stone or rock, it is not in Simon Peter, not in human achievement or construction. Our faith is in God and the Church will continue with or without buildings as long as faith in God lives on.

The Round church at Orphir now forms part of the St Magnus' Pilgrims Way, 55 miles which begins on the isle of Egilsay, where he was murdered and originally buried, and ends at St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall where he now lies. Some of the 55 miles is tough going but other sections are pleasant coastal walks, but such is life. We are now beginning a period of moving from those tough parts on to an easier path. The church will be getting its deep clean w/b 24th August, it is still vitally important that people do not go into the church buildings out with times when the church is open. To begin with that will be on a Wednesday from 4pm till 6pm for private prayer only. The Sunday service will hopefully shortly follow. The date when these can begin is yet to be confirmed and will be

communicated to the congregation when it is available. However, that doesn't mean that we will all make that move at the same rate. In the days, weeks and months ahead please continue to keep safe. Moreover, please do not do anything, or feel pressured into doing anything, you do not yet feel comfortable with, and that includes coming back to church if you do not yet feel ready to do so.

Blessings *Kirstin*

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE OF ARGYLL AND THE ISLES

On Saturday August 22nd, the Electoral Synod of Argyll and The Isles convened and the Preparatory Committee met. This is their first stage of electing a new bishop after Bishop Kevin moved to Glasgow and Galloway. The diocese of Argyll and The Isles offers this prayer which I ask you to join them in praying.

Almighty God, the giver of every good gift; pour out your blessing upon all serving on, and those advising the Synod of this Diocese, as we assemble to begin the election process for the next Bishop of Argyll and The Isles. Grant us your spirit of wisdom and understanding: that we may be guided in our choice of one who will minister to the glory of your holy name, the good government of the people of this Diocese and the welfare of our Province and the whole Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please remember the congregation, clergy of the diocese in the months ahead and pray for the person God is calling to be their next bishop.

PROVINCIAL SYNOD

The Scottish Episcopal Church will hold its first ever online General Synod later this year, following the postponement, because of the coronavirus epidemic, of the meeting originally due to have taken place in June 2020.

Under current Scottish Government guidelines, a physical meeting of Synod is not possible, and there remains considerable uncertainty as to what the position might be in the months ahead.

The provincial Standing Committee does not wish to expose Synod members to having to travel unnecessarily to a physical meeting, nor to expend time and resources in organising such a meeting which might have to be cancelled at short

notice. For those reasons, the Committee has decided to arrange a virtual meeting of Synod on **Saturday 5 December 2020**. Video conferencing software will be used for the online meeting, and possible voting systems are being analysed

PRAYERS FROM PYN

On Sunday 2nd August the Provincial Youth Network assisted in the Eucharist to mark what would have been the end of this year's Glen which had to be postponed. As part of the service they made origami hearts and led these prayers.

Most High God, you are far above us and beyond our knowing. And yet in Jesus you came among us and you are here. With glad and grateful hearts, we praise you.

Ever faithful God, when waves threaten to overwhelm us and when fire is burning all around us, still you are with us. There is no point at which you run for cover or leave us to manage on our own. With glad and grateful hearts, we praise you.

Guiding God, you are a lamp for our feet, a light for our path. In uncertain times, with so much that is unknown and unknowable, go before us, we pray, that being attentive to your voice we might sense your leading. With glad and grateful hearts, we praise you.

Eternal God, there is much that is transient in our experience; we ourselves flourish as flowers and then are gone. But You, Lord, are without beginning or end; the same yesterday, today and forever. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on you and to lay up for ourselves treasure in heaven which shall not be subject to decay or destruction. With glad and grateful hearts, we praise you.

Loving God, in all things we marvel at your goodness and long only to see you more clearly and to know you more nearly. Put salt on our lips, then, that we might thirst for you more. With glad and grateful hearts, we praise you.

In Christ's name, Amen.



EARTH OVERSHOOT DAY

The 22nd August 2020 was Earth Overshoot Day, the date this year when our global use of ecological resources and services exceeded what our planet can regenerate. If everyone in the world consumed as we do in the United Kingdom, we would have reached that date on the 16th May.

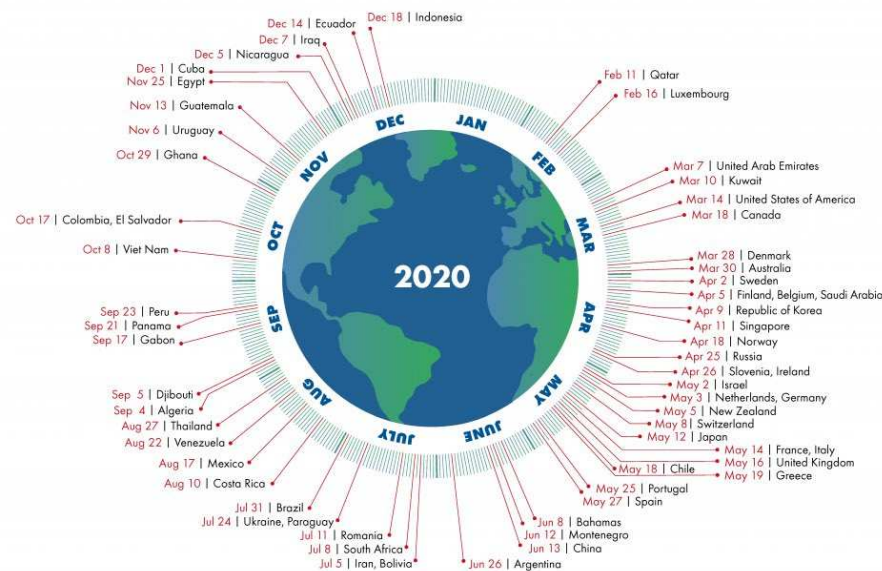
In 2020, a year when in many ways circumstances have meant we have cut back on some of our uses, we have still managed to exploit Earth's ecological budget by 60 per cent over what our planet can restore.

This debt shows up as excessive greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, biodiversity loss, air pollution, groundwater depletion, and deforestation—among other impacts.

The planet has a limited amount of resources and currently not only do we overshoot what can be regenerated, we also use way more than our fair share. It is our Christian responsibility to care for the planet and its resources. God did not give us care over it to plunder or hoard it, but to use it responsibly for all people and indeed all creatures. The destruction of natural habitats home and abroad, from hedgerows to rain forests all have their impact on the delicate precious balance of this blue planet.

Country Overshoot Days 2020

When would Earth Overshoot Day land if the world's population lived like...



Source: Global Footprint Network National Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts 2019



A SHORT HISTORY OF THE THE CREEDS - PART 3

When Constantine conquered his rival Licinius in 324AD and became emperor of the Roman Empire, he was keen to see the dispute between Alexander and Arius resolved. He sent Bishop Ossius of Cordova to Alexandria to act as a mediator. Ossius sided with Alexander and presided at a council in Antioch in early 325AD. The council strongly supported Alexander and the statement of faith produced by the council reflected much of his thinking. The council also condemned Arian views and broke up in expectation of a great council to be held in Ancyra later that year.

In event the council took place in Nicaea not Ancyra, the first ecumenical (world-wide) council in the life of the Church; Ossius presided.

Eusebius of Caesarea presented a statement of faith expressing Alexander's view to the Council. In it were included the phrases 'the Son is like the Father' and 'exactly as the Father in all things'. The Arians couldn't agree, and one of them, another Eusebius this time of Nicomedia, argued strongly against the view that the Son was uncreated, ridiculing the idea. The word *homoousion* (*consubstantial*), meaning of the same essence as, was introduced by those supporting Alexander's view. Those supporting Arian's view however couldn't accept this; God, they argued, could not be divided. There was much debate which was only finally resolved when Constantine qualified *homoousion* to mean 'of the Father' not part of him or part of his *ousia* (substance). So in 325AD the first Nicene Creed was drawn up by the council. However it is not what we know as the Nicene Creed for the debate was not yet over, nor indeed is it yet.

That word *homoousion* continued to cause controversy. Many eastern bishops, while happy to condemn Arius and his views, had grave misgivings about the use of *homoousion* which brought with it Sabellian implications and a confusion over the persons of the Godhead. No one, however, dared to question the Nicene Creed during Constantine's lifetime, but, with the accession of his son Constantius to the eastern third of the empire, the way was open for the drawing up of new creeds which avoided the use of *homoousion*. The Father begetting the Son before all ages was much preferred to the idea of eternal generation. In the debate there emerged four ideas; each group was distinguished by the word they preferred.

Those who stood by the original creed were known as *Homoousians*; in the east there emerged *Homoiousians*, who preferred to say that the Son is 'of like substance', to the Father; Homoians said that the Son is merely 'like the Father', a position with which Arius could have been happy, and the radical Arians, the

Anomoians, who argued that the Son is 'unlike the Father'. There may seem little difference between some of these groupings and there was in fact some movement between them, but this period is however very complex and we will not dwell on it too long.

Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria, was a focus of opposition to Arian theology, and set himself the task of completely redrawing the theological map which owed so much to Origen and the Logos theory. He totally rejected the platonic idea that the relationship of God to the world was a problem. In his view, God was not remote and did not need the help of some 'lesser' God to help. He saw all created things as bearing the direct touch of God. Athanasius therefore came to see *homoousion* as the only term adequate to safeguard the unity of the Father and the Son.

The doctrine of the Trinity reached its classic form in the East with three theologians who came from Cappadocia, Basil, Bishop of Caesarea, Gregory of Nazianzus and Gregory of Nyssa. Basil began in the *Homoiousian* tradition, but came to see *Homoousios* as important for safeguarding the full deity of the Son. He also took the important step of distinguishing *hypostasis* from *ousia* thus developing the theological vocabulary to speak of three *hypostases* (persons) in one *ousia* (substance). In these terms none of the persons of the Trinity is subordinate to the others, but the Father is the sole origin, source, and root within the one Godhead. In his refutation of Eunomius, a leading Arian, Gregory gives this summary of the Trinity:

On the score of *ousia* he is One; that is why the Lord gave instructions in the Law to observe one Name. But in the recognisable characteristics of the *hypostases* he is distributed into the faith of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, inseparably distinguished and unconfusedly united.

Against Eunomius and the Refutation of the Confession of Faith of Eunomius 6.469

The Cappadocian Fathers then ended the long tradition of the Logos theory in the Church. The Son was not mediator between the Creator God and the physical world, but as the incarnate Saviour. They were aware of the limitation of human language in speaking about God (as we all must continue to be) and were wary of imposing formulae and confessions as 'tests' of orthodoxy. For almost all the period between the Council of Nicaea and the Council of Constantinople in 381AD these debates raged. There were many other councils between these years, but it is to Constantinople that this short history of the Creeds now takes us.

It was at this council that the Nicene Creed that is most familiar to us was produced. It met under the chairmanship of Gregory now Bishop of Constantinople, and the whole council was heavily influenced by the Nicene party, those who wished to strengthen and build up the Nicene Creed of 325 especially with regard to the Holy Spirit. This new version filled in much of the gaps and replaced the older version as a more complete defence against the heresies of the time. Finally the Church thought it had a doctrine which clearly stated that Jesus is both God and man. The debate however did not end but continued and deepened over the next 120 years. The Antiochene School, concentrated on the human soul of Christ, they started with the humanity of Christ and asked how he could possibly God at the same time; while the Alexandrian School, started with the divine Logos and asked how he could possibly ever be fully human.

A Council met at Chalcedon in 451AD drew up a statement of faith known as The Chalcedonian Definition. The Councils prime aim had been to consider all the trends of contemporary theology from Rome, Alexandria, Constantinople and Antioch. They had hoped to draw up a united document of faith acceptable to all, however they could not answer the problem of:

‘...how two distinct and complete natures are combined in one Christ.’
Fathers and Heretics by G L Prestige

The Nicene Creed of Constantinople was never changed, not because it was felt correct, it was not, but because there was no agreement on how to change it. The debate on it has continued and in the past 30 years two significant changes were made.

The removal of that clause of much debate - ‘with the Father’, and the removal of ‘men’ when talking of salvation. In these two changes we see reflected the debate of centuries, firstly as the Church tries in the impossible task of getting a statement that fully explains who Jesus is and was, and secondly how contemporary debate and theology impacts on such ancient statements of faith.

This is also a very complex debate that for reasons of brevity I have had to abbreviate considerably, I have concentrated on the debate surrounding Jesus but there was also much debate surrounding Mary, her title, her virginity and her death and place in heaven. Debate surrounding death and life after it and the debate on the place and understanding of the Holy Spirit.

ANOTHER GARDEN PROJECT

I had thought this month’s article might have been some more sailing stories, as we should have been off on our travels by now. In fact we’ve had one day sailing, which was very pleasant until we had engine failure while approaching our rendezvous with friends for a seaside barbecue. To cut a long story short, we had our solitary ‘lunch’ at 7.30pm back at the boatyard after a successful but rather slow return under sail. Further adventures must wait upon repairs and a weather window. I’ll have to write about the garden again!

A few weeks ago I joked to someone that if the church did not reopen soon, my next gardening scheme would have to be to build my own chapel! Now, I call this a joke, and it more or less was just that. After some consideration, and despite my tendency to bite off more than I can chew, I did decide that building a chapel from scratch might be somewhat beyond my capabilities. Maybe next year...!

However, it set me thinking, and I did decide on something that has at least a Christian theme. I am going to create a labyrinth. As I’m sure most of you know, a maze has dead ends and is intended to fool you; a labyrinth is one very circuitous path, but will not lead you astray. They are much older than Christianity, but there are records of a church creating one as early as the fifth century. Chartres Cathedral has the most famous medieval example, and various versions exist, inside and outdoors from various eras. I have seen a couple of mizmazes, which are turf and stone versions, one of considerable antiquity in Wiltshire, and one in the Scillies, age unknown. I believe the Mizmaze, whatever the significance of the ones found in various parts of Britain, derives from a Norse tradition, definitely originally pagan.



Browsing around on the web, looking for ideas and suitable patterns, I find that labyrinths are quite popular in and out of the church today, though they are also surprisingly controversial. Some people swear by them as a major aid to prayer and meditation, others regard them as semi-pagan and unscriptural. It’s not my intention to start a theological debate: any members of All Saints who are interested will be most welcome to try it out and make up their own minds when

it's complete (probably next Spring). As far as I'm concerned, it's a garden feature which I think will be attractive, and which I think of as having some Christian connotations.

So, what am I actually planning to do? My feature will consist of a narrow winding gravel path, using an attractive but manageably simplified pattern (reproducing Chartres Cathedral's exquisite example would take up most of my garden and be incredibly difficult to build!). The paths will be lined by narrow beds planted with alpines or other suitably small perennials and there will be a rose at the centre. The whole will be surrounded by a circular raised bed faced with drystone on the outside, and possibly inside as well if I can find enough stones. It will lead off the path that winds up our garden already, as though it is another flower (the conception behind the patio and beds at the end of the path), coming from lower down the 'stem'. Its outer edge will just touch the rim of the beds surrounding that existing patio. I'm sorry if it's difficult to visualise from that description – at present its existence is solely in my head! I am hoping to get started on this project fairly soon. There's some quite tricky measuring to do, but once I've got my head round that, most of it should be a fairly straightforward job – probably!

Mairi Ross



Editor's note: St Andrew's Church Milngavie constructed a labyrinth in Lennox Park though last time I was there it was a little hard to see in the wet grass. Mairi's plan of a gravel path is a good one.

BOOK AND FILM REVIEWS

I have read a book called '**The way of all flesh**' by **Ambrose Parry**. The description appealed to my rather bloodthirsty spirit and to my scientific background. The book is set in Edinburgh in the 1840s and the story is set around the household of James Simpson, his medical practice and the discovery and

early use of chloroform. The descriptions of illnesses, and in particular childbirth, made me realise how lucky we are to be in modern times for our medical care! As for the 'science', the Simpson household tested out various compounds to see how effective they were in anaesthesia by passing them round the table after dinner. Sometimes they woke up several hours later, other times they had terrible headaches!

A film in a similar vein that we both enjoyed was about the life of **Marie Curie**, who also put scientific discovery before her own personal safety. Both were very driven people who wanted to improve the lives of the sick and injured.

These stories have almost inspired me to volunteer for the testing of the Covid vaccine. The regular blood taking and swab tests are rather off putting but - watch this space...

Kate Ross

I've enjoyed reading, for the second time, **The Beekeeper of Aleppo** by Christy Lefteri. When there has been so much talk of the 'invasion by immigrants' across the Channel, this book gives an account of the tragic situation in Syria and the journey to England of one family, with a background story of bee-keeping. A thought provoking read and sensitively told.

Janet Stack

THOUGHTS DURING LOCKDOWN 2020

These thoughts drew inspiration from the quote below and equally provided material and themes for mindfulness and meditation:

As I listen to the continuing reports on the coronavirus situation, the Chinese cultural outlook to crisis comes to mind.

The written Chinese term for crisis is made up of two characters

危机 (Wei Ji).

The two characters on their own mean danger and opportunity.

Danger – a very prevalent word with us, continuously, and this year and has more impact on us (since mid-March). Lives have changed and how many of us thought that we would still be in isolation/lockdown at beginning of June? Equally will life as we once knew it return to normal? What is true and real is that as lockdown restrictions ease we are still very aware of the ever present Danger. Outbreaks of the virus rear their head exposing our fragilities and fears again.

Danger- exposure to harm, risk, that what causes danger – COVID-19. The repercussions of this disease are far and wide reaching. It is a respecter of no one - all are affected, and yet, like so much in life and in society inequality is rife. Scientific evidence is telling us that those who work in those jobs that are so essential to life: NHS staff, cleaners, carers, those with mental illness, the elderly and the vulnerable are seriously affected by the pandemic. Shielding – how long for and when will it be safe - a constant question – no answer in sight! Some answers are coming but

When will it end?

Danger meeting up with family and friends;

Relationships are on hold, no more lunches, coffees, meeting up. To do so would mean Danger

Danger has meant that we have resorted to alternative communication methods such as:

Media meetings/phone calls - not the same as face-to-face, seeing or hearing first - hand the latest achievements and milestones experienced by family and home schooling!!

Opportunity- a word that today has different meanings for each individual.

Opportunity to tidy the cupboards and in my case to complete my PhD (Projects half Done) of which I had several – now that August is with us lockdown time has allowed me to finish these projects and start some new ones. Design and creativity to the fore again!

To read the books waiting to tell their story and give their message. Re-visiting old and favourite books, enhancing different aspects of prior learning. Now I have time!

Opportunity to devote time to think- to take on board lessons once learned and almost forgotten – ‘Thought Field Therapy’ to name but one and through it self-indulgence, to meditate, to take the path that directs us to explore, to create, to increase our learning capacity.

To encourage us to think about how life in the world has become (pre March 2020) – are we more selfish- less caring of and about others because we have been ‘running to a timetable’ not always of our choosing.

We have been given the opportunity to reflect and in that reflection we become grounded in our knowledge of ourselves – our feelings- our capabilities – our intuition develops. We are adapting to different ways to Worship: on line- through media channels- to self- isolate as we worship. Can we gain more insight into the Word of God? When will we meet again – safely - to Worship in our Church Building?

There is no answer yet but the caring of all to address the Danger posed by COVID-19 is allowing us to see some light as we walk along a path- a very long path.

Danger and Opportunity- we live with daily.

Susan Gray

Susan also sent photos of a couple of the beautiful pieces she has been embroidering during these past months plus a new 3D piece.



LIVINGSTONIA HOSPITAL, MALAWI AND ITS RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS

As many of you will know, I have a personal link to the David Gordon Memorial Hospital (DGMH) at Livingstonia, Malawi. Over the years All Saints has generously supported the work of the DGMH through the Livingstonia Hospital Partnership (LHP), a support organisation based in Northern Ireland, most recently with a donation from the last tranche of Mission Support payments sent out in summer 2019. I thought you would be interested in hearing something about the way the DGMH has been coping with the Covid-19 pandemic using third world facilities and resources. The following article is compiled from recent material sent back to the LHP.

The first problem to be solved was financial – the DGMH has few independent resources to spend on the equipment required to counter the coronavirus. A request for support was sent to LHP who responded. The first part of this article is drawn from the report from DGMH on how the money transferred had been spent.



The David Gordon Memorial Hospital

“When the Covid 19 pandemic was first announced in China, like the rest of the world we thought it would last for a few days and then disappear only to be history. To our surprise days grew into weeks and weeks into months until the whole world has been engulfed in fear because of the enemy which we cannot see with our eyes. The enemy which is moving at the speed of light from place to place and from person to person.

“DGMH as a hospital and participant (player) in the health sector we were also caught by surprise with the pandemic which caught us unaware and unprepared as it is entirely a new disease on the face of the planet. In the process to prepare for the enemy we decided to reach out to you our dear brethren for financial

help so we can procure different materials required in preparing and fighting the pandemic. These resources included but not limited to the following (a list of what was purchased then followed).



Shows a set-up of a handwashing point as a means to prevent Covid-19 and a client being directed to wash hands

“When we submitted our request to you, you did not hesitate but to help us out with funds amounting to £7000 which is equivalent to MK6,510,000. Out of this the hospital has spent MK4,501,500 on preventive materials. This is so because our budget also included the treatment part of which some of the resources will be bought at a later stage. The procured materials were not only used at and by employee at DGMH but also in the Health Centres.” (DGMH works through a series of health centres away from the hospital which provide much of the local health care services – ARL).

“The Procurement of personal protective equipment has really helped DGMH and its health centres as the employees are assured that they are protected in the course of discharging their duties.



*Employees at Health Centre receiving consignment of preventive materials
“SHALOM”*

A personal visit to DGMH

Finally a record in his own words of the current situation at DGMH. Penjani Sichinga, who had served as a Clinical Officer in David Gordon Memorial Hospital, is now studying medicine at the University of Lusaka in Zambia. He regularly returns to DGMH during university vacations. Below is an email which he sent to the LHP following his most recent visit.

“My recent trip to DGMH was very fruitful because I did a lot of major surgery. Most of the patients when they heard of me they came. I felt bad that some arrived very late when I had already left. I reassured them that will I will be back at the end of December or in early January.

“I was very pleased to welcome a new Malawian doctor who joined recently just qualified. It's very hard to find a Malawian doctor to work at DGMH because they say it's a remote area. The cases of Corona are increasing in Malawi. In Livingstonia no case yet. We thank God for that. Most of the people they don't follow precaution measures.

“My studies are going on very well in 6th year now. If all goes well will finish next year then go back to Malawi for internship which I am planning to do at Mzuzu Central Hospital near my family. I thank God for His kindness & love.

“Thanks so much for your support and prayers. We need more qualified doctors of which it's a challenge but I know God will guide. The challenge I have is some surgical equipment we don't have. Take care as well & God bless you.

“Regards

Penjani Kaponda Sichinga
Student Medical Doctor
CUZ-SOM, Lusaka, Zambia”

Andrew Long

PETS AND PANDEMIC

The only sentient beings in the country who have not heard of the lockdown during the pandemic are surely our pets. The months have been lonely for many of us, frustrating because of the lack of anyone to talk to, and disruptive of our usual patterns of life and activity.

Those of us lucky enough to have pets have a solution. We can talk to them and anticipate a reaction. We are pressured when necessary to conform to a regular routine of preparing meals and cleaning up after others. We are encouraged to

take regular exercise, and when we do we encounter like-minded humans with whom we have a common interest to talk of, even if while ‘social distancing,’ which dogs of course ignore.

Our pets do more than that. They remind us of the animal world, all part of God's creation that ‘normal’ life so readily overlooks. We have been fortunate in having regular walks in local woods where the beauty of nature, the birds and occasional deer are to be seen once more.

The names of our pets betray our love of music (Mozart, Schumann, Puccini).



Clara, our toy poodle ready for her walk



Zerlina and Amadeus our Balinese cats at home.

Leporello, our Abyssinian and
Maurio, our Egyptian Mau.



David and Ann Wheatley

MORE KNITTING - TEDDIES

Having just finished knitting a few more beanie hats and feeling like a change of pattern I remembered having been given a pattern for teddies at a Mothers' Union meeting years ago. I even managed to lay my hands on it and I have had a couple of trial runs.

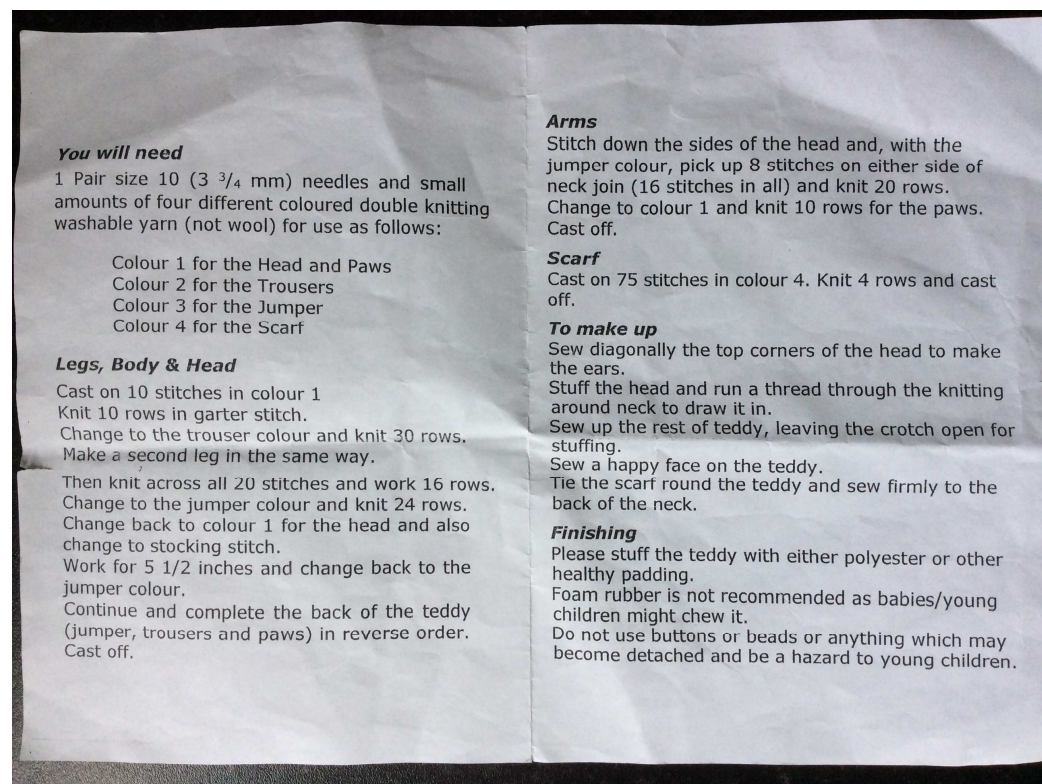
I wondered if anyone would like to give this a go and we could have them for Christmas when we usually give to the Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme via Douglas.

Of course we don't know how this will happen this year but I would be happy to collect and transport any to wherever, in due course if necessary.

Elaine Perrett



Great granddaughter Leah with one of my trial runs.



ANIMAL LIFE IN MARTOCK

I have just returned from a wonderful week visiting my son Chris and family in the village of Martock in Somerset. It was a joy to spend time with three generations of family members, plus several animals. Let me introduce you to the animals.

Willow and Ruby are two beautiful Red Fox Labradors. Smaller than standard Labradors, they are just as gentle and friendly and are excellent with children. Their coats are a glorious deep russet colour, Willow being a little darker than her sister. My grandson Harry, who no longer lives with his parents, was often at the house with his Dalmatian/Pointer cross. With



Dalmatian spots, plus one black ear and one large black eye, Franco looks rather like a pirate and has much the same swashbuckling air. He is an exuberantly friendly dog, overflowing with bonhomie. Tail wagging furiously, intent on getting the party going at all costs, he creates an atmosphere of havoc in less time than it takes to tell.



Snowy is an elderly, thin, deaf, somewhat scrawny looking but much loved white cat with a black tail. Dwarfed by these dogs but nevertheless well able to hold her own, she has merely to hiss or raise a paw, and all three melt away to pursue other interests. At first, Franco was under the misapprehension Snowy was there to be played with, but soon learned otherwise. In winter, she effortlessly takes the prime place in front of the fire and not one of the dogs dare to oppose her.

At meal times, all four animals gather in the kitchen and sit quietly at Chris or Tricia's feet as their bowls are being prepared. They know their

pecking order, and for once their discipline is perfect. Willow is first, then Ruby, then Franco, who shows remarkable self-control as he is always served last. No-one jumps up. Snowy has hers on the conservatory window-sill. Peace reigns. One day Snowy was sitting on the open bathroom window ledge, watching the starlings on the sloping roof of the conservatory just below her. Strongly tempted, and forgetting her age, she took a flying leap outside, was unable to get a grip, and slid down the roof towards the gutter. Harry ran outside with a chair and stood on it to rescue her. As she was just out of reach this wasn't easy, but he managed it, clambered down, and let her go. Up rushed all three dogs, eager, interested, and intent on being involved. Snowy simply swished her tail, growled, lifted her paw, and then stalked back with dignity into the house to sleep things off. The dogs retreated elsewhere.

Chris and I walked over the fields every day, usually just with Willow and Ruby. Once we climbed over a stile and onto a small footbridge leading into another field. A small group of inquisitive heifers came hurrying up. The leading cow started off along the bridge, coming face to face with a startled Chris, and began enthusiastically nuzzling against his legs as affectionately as a domestic cat. Momentarily at a loss, as her weight and size considerably exceeded his, Chris pushed her backwards as carefully as he could, she mercifully did as she was told, I slipped past, and all was well. The dogs also slipped past, and neither they nor the cows took any notice of each other, much to my surprise and relief.

One large field was let to travellers' horses. We saw several groups gathered companionably together under the trees. We glimpsed deer quite often and, on the dogs' late evening run one night, Chris heard something snuffling and

grunting and shone the torch. A large badger ran directly towards the light so suddenly and at such speed, Chris jumped clean over it.

Tricia wants to breed from Willow next spring, she thinks Willow has a more maternal nature than Ruby. If I can get down there next summer, there may be an extended animal population. There is also another grandchild on the way. Tricia has a big heart, she loves children and animals, and she and Chris look after their lively family wonderfully well. I came home feeling I too had been looked after wonderfully well – as always – and I feel thoroughly reinvigorated and blessed.

Mary Darke

Some articles from Inspires, the online magazine of the Scottish Episcopal Church (<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/>)

PRESIDING BISHOP JOINS PROVINCIAL WORSHIP

It is no reflection on the excellent broadcasts which were to follow, but the big highlight of online provincial worship in August fell on the very first day of the month when young members of the Scottish Episcopal Church were joined in worship by the Primus from Arpafeelie, and by the Most Rev Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, in the United States of America.



The Eucharist took place on the Sunday when the Primus would have been returning from the Lambeth Conference, and when the Young People and Leaders would have been arriving at Glenalmond College for their annual youth camp (Glen).

Because of the pandemic these two important moments in the provincial life of the Church could not happen, but worshippers were able to join with the Young People and with the Anglican Communion online. Young people from the senior house group at the camp led worshippers through the Ministry of the Word and Presiding Bishop Michael led the Intercessions.

Understandably, the broadcast attracted a substantial audience, with many worshippers tuning in from the other side of the Atlantic.

Subsequent Sundays saw the Eucharist broadcast from Brechin, Perth and Aberdeen led by Bishops Andrew, Ian and Anne respectively, with Bishop Kevin rounding off the month in Glasgow & Galloway.

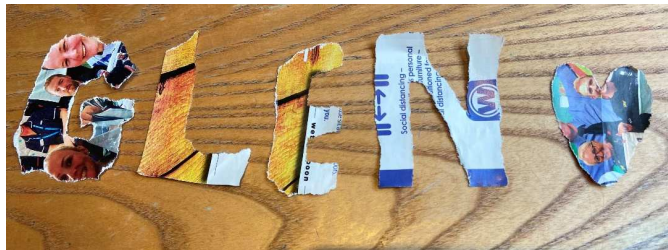
Editor's note: On p3 of this magazine there is a reference to the online version of Glen, organised by the Provincial Youth Network.

Last year, Samantha and Imogen enjoyed participating in Glen and meeting other young Christians. Impressive details of the online meetings this year are given in **Inspires** - well worth a read, and 'inspiring' to hear of the enthusiastic efforts to involve young people in the Christian Faith.

HEROIC EFFORT MAKES GLEN 2020 AN ONLINE HIT

This year's Provincial Youth Week was not held in person at Glenalmond because of the pandemic: instead, Provincial youth leaders pulled out all the stops to run Glen Online, *writes Claire Benton-Evans, Provincial Youth Committee Enabler.*

The week began with the oldest delegates taking a creative lead in Provincial Worship alongside Primus Mark and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.



Over the following days, delegates gathered for Night Eucharist and Morning Prayer, which was especially important on the day that exam results were published.

House groups met to explore our theme of 'Heroes?' We considered larger-than-life superheroes and compared them with leading figures in Scripture such as Moses, David, Paul, Martha and Mary. We looked at these human heroes of our faith and asked: what can we learn from these holy people about being a child of God, and what do they have to show us about God? We shared breakfast and lunch online and featured some of the delegates'

favourite parts of Glen, including the Murder Mystery, Quiz Night, Film Night and a choice of activities, such as the Scavenger Hunt. All this was made possible with the wonders of Zoom, including multiple breakout rooms, the chat function and screen sharing. Many also customized their Zoom windows with new backgrounds and their Glen superhero names!

All 36 delegates received care packages containing everything they needed for the week, plus some treats: popcorn for the film night and a very special mug featuring Bible-based words of encouragement, such as "I am God's very good idea, I am fearfully and wonderfully made, I am outrageously loved". This is the key message we want our delegates to take away from Glen, however we meet. We give thanks for the commitment and creativity of everyone who helped make Glen Online happen, and we pray that next year we will meet in person.

ANSWERS TO THE PHOTOGRAPH PUZZLE (See the August Magazine)

Top photograph taken from the East shore of Kilmardinny Loch.

Middle photograph taken from the beginning of Stockiemuir Avenue looking NE.

Bottom photograph looking SW over the entry pool to Craigmaddie reservoir.



Sunset after a stormy day at Shildaig, Loch Torridon