

October 2020 Magazine



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The cover photo is of St Francis blessing the birds.

*All Saints Scottish Episcopal
Church
Drymen Road, Bearsden*



Dear Friends

The seasons are on the change again and, with the approach of colder weather and the rise in cases of CoVid-19 causing concern, our lives are facing tighter restrictions once more. It can be tough not being able to see the people we want to see, not being able to do the things we want to do, how we want to do them, when we want to do them. Of course one of the reasons we feel it so keenly, is because we are privileged and could do those things before.

We can rejoice however that services will be resuming in All Saints from Sunday 4th October, you should have already received a letter informing you of this news and how to book a place in church should you wish to come along, in this magazine you will also find information regarding the restrictions that will be in place. Both the date of opening and the restrictions are subject to change, even at short notice; that is the nature of the times we are living through.

The first Sunday in October usually is our Harvest Festival and we are used to the church being decorated with the colours of autumn, with the smell of apples and flowers fragrant in the air. A sign of the bounty we enjoy, a thanksgiving of all we have received, and an offering to God of part of that bounty which God firstly provided. This year that decoration will be missing, however maybe we can use the lack of such visual and olfactory cues to become more aware of those for whom the world does not appear to have plenty as they struggle with very little. There has been an increase demand for the services of food banks over the past 6 months and as the furlough scheme comes to an end there is grave concern about how that will impact on those who still can't resume working.

If you are able, this year I am encouraging you as part of your harvest thanksgiving, to add items to the food bank collection points, even if it is only 1 tin of beans or packet of pasta, which most supermarkets have. If you are avoiding supermarkets at present then maybe you would consider making a monetary donation to the foodbank which is supported by the box at the back of All Saints at <https://eastdunbartonshire.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money-online/>

As, at this time of year, the leaves turn and even the clear sunny days have a nip in them I am reminded of R S Thomas' poem 'A Day in Autumn'. It always makes me feel both wistful for what is passing and curious about what is to come, but even more so this year.

*It will not always be like this,
the air windless, a few last
leaves adding their decoration
to the trees' shoulders, braiding the cuffs
of the boughs with gold; a bird preening*

*In the lawn's mirror. Having looked up
from the day's chores, pause a minute,
let the mind take its photograph
of the bright scene, something to wear
against the heart in the long cold.*

We have our faith to help our hearts through the long cold of this CoVid-19 time, another thing for which we can give thanks. So let us not in our own thanksgiving forget to pray and care for those who do not have that hope and are finding these days all the more anxious and disconcerting because of that. Please stay safe and keep remembering.



Blessings *Kirstin*

ST FRANCIS

The feast of St Francis (an image of him blessing the birds is on the front of this magazine) falls on Sunday 4th October. St Francis is known as the patron saint of animals so at the end of the service that Sunday those on line will be invited to bring their pets into view for a blessing. I know you often try and keep them out of view and in other rooms, however this is their moment to be front of camera and to celebrate and give thanks for the valuable contribution they make to our lives.

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP KEVIN

Dear Friends,

As I write, parts of the Diocese are entering partial lockdown – again. There is a lot of confusion as to what 'partial' means and why certain things are allowed, and others are not...

The scriptural text we need, more than any other at this time, is from Luke's Gospel –

'Fear not Little Flock'. That is the text that Bishop Richard Holloway chose to 'preach me in with' on 4th July, and the text of his sermon is attached to this letter so that you can all read what he would have said to us. It was also the text that I chose for the Provincial Eucharist from our cathedral on the Feast of St Aidan.

'Fear not little flock' is what we all need to remember at this time, and it was a coincidence that Bishop Richard independently chose the same text. As the saintly William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury once said: 'When I pray, coincidences just happen. When I fail to pray, no such thing happens.' **There** is the scripture from Luke's Gospel and **there** is the plan of action. Fear not little flock – Prayer and love, the very essence of God and of life with God: Love will find a way of conquering fear.

Remember in the 1982 Liturgy of the Eucharist we say, at every celebration: "There is no room for fear in love."

When we closed our churches at the beginning of the pandemic, we did so in Love, not Fear. Life with God has meaning and purpose; **love** has meaning and purpose. We closed our churches to prevent Covid 19 being transmitted. That was a loving response to the crisis, because in love we have the best interests of the other at heart. Purpose, to prevent transmitting the disease. There is no room for fear in love, that is the love that Our Lord Jesus Christ lived and died, but rose again to prove. The Holy Spirit is with us and in us, and so I remind you - 'Fear not, little flock.'

And the gossip –

Elspeth and I hope to finally move physically to Glasgow in the second week of October. Sadly, as you know, our move was delayed because for 4 months no work could be done on the house due to the pandemic. Then the rules meant that some tradesmen were not allowed to work together – so a plumber cannot work while the joiner is trying to encourage the decorator to paint... The text – 'Carpenter from Nazareth – joiners wanted.'

Many thanks to Elliot Glenesk, Diocesan Surveyor, for organising all these works and to all in the Diocese who have helped with this project – you are doing a great job!

The calendar for the autumn is beginning to be put together but everything remains provisional and of course, subject to restrictions and change. This includes the virtual General Synod at the beginning of December. There is no such thing as 'normality' and remember, it will almost certainly be Advent and Christmas with no carols, no singing etc.

The Scottish Episcopal Church is not above or beyond the law of the land. The meaning and purpose of that law is to safeguard all our people. As disciples of Jesus we comply, not in fear but in love.

September is the month when Elspeth and I have a holiday and this year, with sadness, we have cancelled our trip to our beloved Italy. We will spend part of the holiday packing up the house and office in Oban so we are ready to move house. There seems to be an awful lot of stuff ... We will also spend some time in York and will tour the abbeys of Yorkshire. It is fascinating that Cistercians were great plumbers, so I am looking forward to picking up many hints and tips!

Elspeth and I would like to say a huge thank you to you all for your warm welcome, and we look forward to meeting you all in person and to visiting all the charges of the Diocese. Many thanks also to all of the Diocesan staff and officials who have been so helpful and patient since I became your Bishop in July.

Thank you and God Bless you all

+ Kevin

TEXT OF SERMON ORIGINALLY PREPARED BY BISHOP RICHARD HOLLOWAY FOR THE ENTHRONEMENT OF BISHOP KEVIN IN ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL ON 4TH JULY 2020

Luke 12.32 - Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom

60 years ago, though not quite to the day, on another sunny, summer Saturday, I was ordained to the priesthood in this cathedral, along with 10 others. Many women were present in the congregation of 500 that day, but none of them knelt before Bishop Francis Moncrieff, to have him lay his hands on their heads and say to them, in the words of the Scottish Prayer Book, 'Receive the Holy Ghost for the Office and work of a Priest in the Church of God'.

Given what we now know about the demographics of human sexuality, there were probably about 25 gay people in the congregation that day, but none of them would have been 'out'; nor would any of them have



thought that it would ever be possible for them to be married to a same-sex partner here in the cathedral of which they were such faithful members.

Neither of these examples of structural inequality would have troubled anyone present that day, in what was then an institution, like all the others in society, that was unselfconsciously dominated by straight men – or allegedly straight men. On the contrary, most Churches in Scotland at the time would have offered theological justification for that ancient inequality. It was how God had ordered it.

No, it wasn't inequality that was troubling the Scottish Episcopal Church that year; it was something else entirely. 1960 was the 400-hundredth anniversary of the Scottish Reformation, and we weren't sure how to respond. For the Kirk, it was obviously a year of celebration. For the Catholic Church, which had been ejected from Scotland after 1000 years, it was a year of mourning. But what was it for us, the Scottish Episcopal Church? We were miserable because we believed that we were the true Church of Scotland, but we had been robbed of our supremacy because of our Jacobite history and loyalty to the Stuarts. Like the Prince over the water, we were waiting for the call to come back and resume our ascendancy. It was sad, pathetic almost, but for lovers of lost causes and failed dreams, it was not lacking in romance, and it appealed to my ardent young heart.

So we didn't do very much to celebrate the Reformation, but Francis Moncrieff invited Michael Ramsey, then Archbishop of Canterbury, to preach to us at a special service here in the cathedral. I can't remember anything from his sermon, but I can remember every word of his text. Large, craggy and kindly, he filled this pulpit as he leant towards us and quoted Luke, chapter 12:32: 'Fear not little flock, for it is your father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom' – and a sigh of comforted unreality went round the cathedral. Might not the little flock of Scottish Episcopalians one day be given back the kingdom that had been stolen from them? The problem was that while we might have understood Ramsey correctly, when he seemed to promise us a recovery of status and significance in Scotland, we certainly misunderstood Jesus, because that was the opposite of what Jesus meant by the kingdom of God. What did Jesus mean?

A theological term that might help us understand what Jesus was up to is the Greek word *prolepsis*, meaning to throw ahead or anticipate. Political reformers often urge their followers *to be the future they long for and act as if it were already here*. One way of thinking about the work of Jesus is to see it as the creation of an eschatological community that would live God's end time *now*. He taught his disciples not only to pray that God's kingdom would come

on earth as it was in heaven, but to live *as if it were already here!* They were to be a proleptic community, marked by two characteristics rare in the power structures of the world. The first was radical forgiveness at both the personal and political level, the kind of forgiveness that deflects the harm we constantly do each other by refusing to let it break us apart. The second was to see the world from the bottom up not the top down. God's kingdom was downside up. It was identified with the rejected, the despised and ignored. With those at the bottom, the victims of power; not those at the top, the wielders of power. During the Covid Emergency we have glimpsed that radical vision in action. We have realised that it is the ignored and unappreciated who make it possible for society to function at all. We have been given a glimpse of what it might mean to actualise the downside-up vision of the kingdom of God, to make it come on earth as it is in heaven, where the last are first and the first are last.

The Church, in most of its manifestations in history, has never been what Jesus meant by the kingdom of God, though sometimes it has allowed itself to become the instrument of that kingdom, one of its enabling agencies. And that is its great opportunity today. In its increasing weakness and marginality, it can, maybe for the first time, become an instrument of the kingdom, a broken community working with other broken communities to heal the world.

Beloved Kevin, I know that beneath your confident and competent exterior you are feeling daunted today, called as you are to this new ministry in difficult circumstances and in uncertain times. My plea to you, as one who has known and admired you since I lured you to St Salvador's in Edinburgh in 1987 - where Francis Moncrieff also served - is to make friends here in this friendliest of cities and work with them, not to increase the prestige of the Church but to bring in the kingdom. You and Elspeth have a genius for hospitality and a gift for friendship. Use them; use them prodigally. You will find many allies here in this big-hearted, friendly city, in both its secular and faith communities. Join them in working for a better world. Be a servant of the kingdom.

And have fun!

RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL

On the following page there is a risk assessment tool which is offered to help you assess your own risk, should you catch the virus; what you then do with that information is up to you. There are also other risks in life and this one just needs to be added to the host of other risks. However, we can only do that when we are fully aware what the risk are should we catch CoVid-19.

This tool has been produced by the Church of Scotland in conjunction with the NHS.

This assessment 'tool' helps you to see how different risk factors may combine to give serious health complications should you catch the Covid-19 virus. It does not include the factors that may make you clinically extremely vulnerable, where you should be following the guidance for those who are 'shielding'. It includes the factors where there is significant statistical evidence but does not include any rarer conditions which you may have, so this only offers a starting point. You may want to discuss the results with your doctor or with those who have expectations about your involvement with church life.

This should be read alongside other government or local advice about staying safe. We are not claiming medical expertise in sharing this way of scoring your risk but giving a way to show how serious catching the virus may be for you or the groups using your church building(s).

Circle the score next to each one that applies to you and add up your score.

A score of under 3 indicates a lower risk, but you should still be following the guidance for staying safe.

A score of 3-5 suggests a greater risk and you should consider ways of reducing your risk by taking additional precautions or avoiding some activities.

A score of 6 or more suggests a high risk and indicates that you should continue to work or participate in church life from your home.

The scoring is based on an article from the British Medical Association website. Risk Stratification tool for Healthcare workers during the Covid-19 Pandemic; using published data on demographics, co-morbid disease and clinical domain in order to assign biological risk: David Strain, Janusz Jankowski, Angharad Davies, Peter English, Ellis Friedman, Helena McKeown, Su Sethi, Mala Rao medRxiv 2020.05.05.20091967; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.05.05.20091967>

Risk Factor		Total Score
Age	50-59	1
	60-69	2
	70-79	4
	80 and over	6
Sex at birth	Male	1
Ethnicity	Caucasian	0
	Black African Descent	2
	Indian Asian Descent	1
	Philippine Descent	1
	Other (including mixed race)	1
Diabetes & Obesity	Type 1 & 2	1
	Diabetes Type 1 & 2 with presence of microvascular complications or HbA1c ≥ 54 mmol/mol	2
	Body Mass Index greater than or equal to 35 kg/m ²	1
	Online BMI calculator: https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-weight/bmi-calculator	
Cardiovascular disease	Angina, previous heart attack, stroke or cardiac intervention	1
	Heart Failure	2
Pulmonary (lung) disease	Asthma	1
	Non-asthma chronic pulmonary disease	2
	Either of the above requiring oral corticosteroids in the last year	1
Malignant neoplasm (cancer)	Active malignancy	3
	Malignancy in remission	1
Rheumatological conditions	Active treated conditions	2
Immunosuppressant therapies	Any indication	2
Total Score		

FRAMEWORK FOR RESUMPTION OF SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS

With All Saints now re-opening, coming to Church will be different, and to help you understand what the differences will be please read the following.

Because of the restrictions on numbers and keeping a 2 meter distance, you will need to pre-book if you wish to come to church; you will not be able to just turn up. If there proves to be less demand than is anticipated this might change. You will have to phone, in person, and request a space on the Wednesday before the Sunday you wish to attend. You will be told when you phone if you have a place or not and be given a time slot in which to arrive.

Please do not request a space or indeed come to church if you, or anyone else in your household or social bubble, is: -

- awaiting a CoVid-19 test or test result
- has been given a positive test result
- self-isolating because of foreign travel
- self-isolating upon the request of Test and Protect
- coughing or sneezing, even if you think it is not CoVid-19 related
- feels unwell

If after you have booked a place one of the above factors comes into play, please do not attend and if there is time let the Rector know so she may reallocate your space should there be others waiting.

For your safety and for the safety of everyone else, the following restrictions will be in place.

- Communion will be available as bread only.
- There will be no toilet facilities available at All Saints.
- Wearing of a mask is compulsory.
- Using hand sanitizer, on arrival, on departure, before and after receiving communion. Hand sanitizer is provided.
- Keeping 2 meters distance within the church and church grounds.
- You will not be able to pick where you sit.
- The car park at the church will not be available for use.
- There will be no singing.

- There will be no coffee/tea after the service.
- The screen will be used for the liturgy, or you can bring your own copy. No books or leaflets will be handed out.
- Your name will be kept for 21 days and passed on to Test and Protect, along with the contact details which are held for you on the congregational roll, on request.
- You should arrive during your designated 10-minute arrival slot, you may have to wait outside to be admitted.
- There will be no admittance to the church once the service has begun.
- You will be required to stay seated for the whole service and only move when requested to by the stewards.

Please also note:

- Please do not bring any shopping or similar items to church.
- The coat hooks at the back of the church will not be available for use.
- If you bring a collection to church it should be placed in the plate at the back of the church on your arrival.
- The service will be live streamed via zoom and there is a possibility that you may appear on that live feed. The live feed is restricted to those who have signed in using a meeting id and password and so it is not viewable by the public at large. Should this be an issue please let the Rector know when you are booking your space.
- Zoom services will be continuing however they too will have a different feel as we gather in a mixture of being in person and online.
- Children are welcome to come along, however there is no Sunday School or Crèche at present.
- The halls will be locked and not available. (These are not currently being cleaned and so classed as unsafe.)
- On the 22nd of September, the First Minister strongly advised against car sharing.

You should have already received a letter from the Rector with information about when services are resuming and details of how to book your space if you wish to come to church. If you have not received that letter please contact the Rector and she will send another copy so that you have the most accurate and up to date information.

SEPTEMBER IN BARRA

We have just come back from spending the first two weeks of September in Barra where there has not been a single case of Covid-19. The weather was unsettled, predominantly windy, and sunshine was in short supply, but this did not deter us from going out every day.

We had two sunny days which we took full advantage of. The first day we drove down to Vatersay from our house at the very north end of Barra (shown below) and set off to follow the local Heritage walk round the Island. The walk



is mainly a beach walk from the local community hall down the west of the island and back up a beach on the east side. The Traigh Siar, the big beach on the west was the scene of a tragic accident in September 1853 when an emigrant ship from Liverpool (the Annie Jane) foundered in a storm off the bay with 348 people drowning in the heavy seas. There is a memorial to them overlooking the beach.

There are standing stones, duns and signs of Iron Age and Bronze Age settlements at the south end of the island which makes you stop and wonder what these early people did. Certainly no difficulty with social isolation in these days.



We stopped on the rocks at the beach at the very south of the island to watch a seal surfing on the waves and getting closer to the shore on each occasion. No sign of any other humans. We may as well have been on a desert island

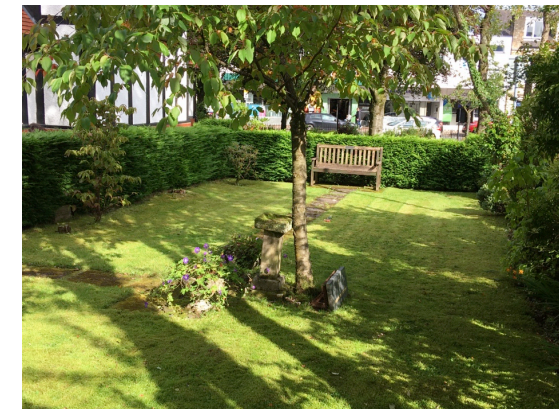
Ken Ross

ALL SAINTS CHURCH GARDEN

Over the summer, each time I've been walking from the Cross along the Drymen Road by the shops, I have been struck by the loveliness of our church garden. Looking across the road it enhances the area, providing a delightful contrast to the austerity and greyness of the 'Hub' and carpark. When so many front gardens are turned into concrete driveways, our church garden provides a much-needed area of beauty and colour. Long may it stay that way. The regular band of gardeners who keep it looking so attractive are to be congratulated and thanked for their work.

Janet Stack

Some photographs illustrating the beauties of the Church Gardens are shown on the following page. How many photographers' work can you detect? – Ed.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

It's that time of year yet again! Regrettably, as the situation is so uncertain regarding the next few weeks, I'm not planning on having the usual sale of Christmas cards and gifts after church. However, do please remember that **Gavin's Mill** in Milngavie usually has a grand selection of charity cards and gifts, so I do hope they'll have the same again this year.

The following reaction was received by Pauline from Sue Milne at Gavin's Mill, when she heard that Pauline was planning to mention it in the magazine:-

"Thank you for including Gavin's Mill in your article - we really appreciate the publicity!

"We fully intend to have Christmas cards on sale at Gavin's Mill again this year. Assuming the restrictions permit us to operate as we are, we welcome online orders and the shop is open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm. The cafe is open with fewer indoor tables and seating outside can be under gazebos - it might get a bit chilly, but we're hoping to keep the terrace and garden operating through the winter. We intend to have refills of food stuffs such as rice, lentils, oats, etc. available by the end of next month.

"Please also mention our need for more volunteers, especially in the cafe..."

Self Help Africa also has some nice cards, priced at £4 and £3.50 for packs of 10, though some of the designs are the same as last year's.

They can be viewed at: <https://selfhelpafrica.org/uk/shop/>. If there are any you fancy, I'm happy to put in a bulk order and deliver them to your door. Just contact me at paulinewaugh@hotmail.co.uk, Tel.01419428819. If you don't have access to the internet, I'm happy to meet you up at Bearsden Cross for a coffee, catch-up and card viewing (If we're still allowed) - my treat! All orders by the end of October at the latest, please.

Pauline Waugh

SUPPORTING THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS SCOTLAND

As you will know from the recent issues of the magazine, several knitting experts from within our congregation have been making woollen hats for seafarers and sending them to the Mission to Seafarers, Scotland. Mrs Jennifer Gray from the Mission has always been punctilious in acknowledging receipt of

these in beautifully written full page letters. One of our knitters thought that we should include such a letter in the magazine in thanks to all of you.

"Dear

"On behalf of the Mission to Seafarers, thank you so much for all the knitted items which you have recently forwarded to the Rev Tim Tunley. Your continued thoughtfulness means so much to us all and I have been asked to say how much your colour combinations were admired and how very welcome more like these would be.

"We do appreciate your continued support and last week the Secretary General of our London Headquarters published an article entitled 'An army of knitters offer literal and spiritual warmth for seafarers'. In the article there was a quote from a seafarer who gave his view on what it meant to receive such a warm knitted item. He had been at sea for nine months and said 'One day someone gets on board and gives you something and honestly you feel that they give you a gold bar. It is like there is someone out there giving a care. You don't know who they are, but they give a useful material to you that you can use at your work.' The article goes on to say how someone like yourself, a total stranger, should take the time to sit down with their needles and yarn, and knit a warm colourful item as a gift, which above all makes seafarers feel cared about and appreciated.

"I think this is even more true at the moment when many seafarers are still not able to leave their ships or get home to visit loved ones. One paragraph in the article tells how a seafarer took a picture and said how he would show the hat to his wife and tell her about the Mission and how someone cared for him even though he was far away from home.

"We are all going through difficult times now, often unable to see our own loved ones. The virus seems to be spreading again and who knows if we will ever get back to normal, but you continue to think of others and your support means so much to us. Regrettably it is still a difficult time for seafarers: some of our centres are still closed: some shore leave for seafarers still cancelled, and chaplains are still restricted in their visits to ships; but whatever they have to endure, seafarers are always there for us and thanks to them the shelves in our supermarkets continue to be well stocked. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all.

"Please do stay safe and well. You remain always in our prayers.

"Jennifer K Gray"

SOME SHARED THOUGHTS ON FACE MASKS

As someone who has used a face mask frequently in the course of my career I feel quite at home in one! David and I even wear one whenever we leave the confines of our garden and walk out anywhere, which may be a bit of overkill but we feel that it reminds others to keep a distance, and we are consequently given a wide berth .

On a recent week at Pitlochry, where we were out walking each day, we needed them for the forest tracks where safe distancing from other people in passing was impossible. Of course we were obliged to wear one inside the guesthouse where we stayed when not actually seated at the breakfast or dinner table. Shopping also requires one, so not only do we always carry our own shopping bag but also a mask in our pocket or on our face.

The disadvantages are incompatibility with hearing aids and we have had some moments of panic when David has had his fall out and has thought that he has lost one. Also it causes reduction in verbal sounds and muffling and one cannot lipread, which many of us do without realising it. Those who wear spectacles find that they steam up readily, and I recall that I converted to contact lens when I had to see clearly to remove very fine facial sutures when working at Canniesburn plastic surgery unit.

A further problem is in the use of disposable masks. We have seen beaches littered with discarded ones on the television and several in Bearsden too, and have been informed that these are causing a huge problem to the environment. However, as these masks are made of long life plastic which survives in the sea, so they can surely be washed and reused many times. We have several which we have acquired on visits to hospitals during lockdown and they have been washed and worn again. At the commencement of being asked to wear masks I made washable homemade ones but then our neighbour introduced us to Slanj masks ,which are well fitting and comfortable to wear and washable and of which 20% of the purchase price goes to the charity "Shelter" so we purchased those. After the First Minister was seen wearing one, all patriotic Scots wanted them and the orders for them have streamed in in their thousands much to the benefit of the homeless. We took ours south of the border where Scots are traditionally viewed with suspicion and we wore them on a visit to our local pub in Cumbria and did wonder if people thought we had joined the SNP. Nobody commented!!

How do you feel when you wear one and how do you respond to others? We smile and hope others detect that in our eyes and we feel able to greet people verbally in passing too. The mask is there to protect others and not to exclude

them and that is the difference between the masks we wear and those facial coverings of some Islamic groups which seek to exclude. Those are not our words but those of a moderate woman of the Islamic Faith.

Mary and David Stott

LITERARY CORNER : A FINE POEM FOR OUR TIME BY WILLIAM COWPER

Brenda Hadcroft has suggested that we might like to read again the fine poem by William Cowper (1731-1800) which speaks to her as "a comfort to those who cannot understand what is happening to them", and hence is a most appropriate work for our time. It comes from the Olney Hymnbook of 1779, which was written with John Newton (known particularly for the hymn Amazing Grace) for use in the parish of Olney, Buckinghamshire where Newton was curate at the time.

Light Shining out of Darkness

God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never failing skill
He treasures up His bright designs,
And works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But Trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence,
He hides a shining face.

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour,

The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.

THE HEDGEHOG OF ABBEYFIELD HOUSE

As many of you will know I am on the Board of Trustees of Abbeyfield House in Bearsden. This is termed 'Very Sheltered Housing' and can accommodate up to 11. The Coronavirus and subsequent lockdown have proved extremely challenging for us, not least because all 7 of our staff went into self isolation in



early April. Thankfully this was remedied fairly swiftly and new staff employed, much to the relief of those of us tasked with ensuring that our residents continued to be well fed. Two of our male Board members discovered previously unknown cooking skills or more correctly, in one case, a useful link with a local restaurant! Our residents have been kept safe thus far, but it has been hard for them as we had to restrict visiting, only allowing contact with relatives in the garden. A small window of opportunity allowed us to admit two new residents before we were locked down again. They remain a happy and resilient group but find some of the limitations of their new lives difficult. They are always happy for any unexpected diversion and were cheered last week when a new visitor arrived in the garden (see photo) He/she was very small, as shown in relation to the saucer. The S.P.C.A. officer who arrived in response to our call estimated 2-3 weeks old. Hedgehogs of this age should still be with their parents, but this one had obviously got separated and was in need of care and nutrition. We were sad to see him go but pleased that he would be well looked after and that we had done our bit towards hedgehog preservation.

Gill Hamblen

ROTA FOR THE SUNDAY SERVICES IN OCTOBER

As you will know from earlier articles, we will be worshipping back in church from October 4th at 10.30. The services will be open to members both in Church and on Zoom. The following is a rota for support duties as readers/intercessors and stewards.

Date	Leader	Reader/intercessor	Stewards
4 October	Rev Kirstin Freeman Eucharist	Celia Fisher	Andrew Long Andrew Roach
11 October	Rev Kirstin Freeman Eucharist	Kirstin Freeman	Celia Fisher Janet Stack
18 October	David Simmons Non-eucharistic	David Simmons	Andrew Long Brenda Hadcroft
25 October	David Simmons Non-eucharistic	Andrew Long	Tracey Conway A N Other

Should any other members be willing to help with stewarding the services in Church, please let me know. It would be good to be able to expand the list of those willing to help.

Andrew Long