

Loanhead Parish Church

Newsletter - June 2021

Dear friends

A couple of weeks ago I wondered if there was enough to put together to make a church magazine. I needn't have worried – as you'll see there are lots of things that have taken place over the last two months and plans moving forward.

Planning has been difficult though as restrictions have changed so much over the past few weeks and there is still some uncertainty around when restrictions will be further eased. We had hoped to be able to sing again in church by 13th of June, but it looks like that will be delayed for a few weeks as we need to be in Level 1. Hopefully though before too long we will be able to sing together as I know so many people (including me) have missed that.

I am so grateful though for the way that people have stepped up to the plate in so many ways and have been willing to adapt to new ways of doing things. From organising afternoon teas in place of a coffee morning for Christian Aid, having Shannon singing on Sundays (which has been a real highlight), recording thoughts for the day, making sure the church is cleaned and covid requirements followed, through to shaping activities for families and young people, we have had to learn to adapt. No doubt there will be more to come in the weeks ahead but we have shown that we can do it. That what we have and share is too important to lay down. Our commitment to work, worship and share together in ways that enrich us and help us grow together and in our walk with God.

It reminds me in many ways of the patterns of life that the early church had developed – and then had to lay to one side as persecution came.

People having to find new ways of meeting together, encouraging one another and maintaining one another in their walk with Jesus. The early part of Acts 8 outlining what they faced as we read:

Saul tried to destroy the church; going from house to house, he dragged out the believers, both men and women, and threw them into jail.

In the next verse though we read that those who were scattered took with them the message of Jesus. The very thing which was designed to destroy the church led to its growth!

For us too then as we change and adapt, we look to God to lead and direct us. That somehow we might look back on these times and see how God enabled us to learn and grow through everything. That may seem a bit far fetched, but that is my prayer for you and for us.

The next few months will be a time for us to wind down a bit in terms of church activities, but I do hope to see most of you, whether it's at church on a Sunday, round at the manse for a social gathering (you'll read about that later) or in the park for the Gala Day in August.

With every blessing.

Luke Dill



Sunday 6th June – Communion Service. If you are joining us online for our service this Sunday, please have wine or juice and bread ready to share with us as we take time to stop and remember Jesus' death and resurrection. We'll be interviewing Pamela Kennedy our new Probationer Minister and the music group will be there to give us live rather than recorded music.

Sunday Services in the church



The restriction on numbers has eased slightly but we still need you to book a place by calling or texting using our dedicated number—07743107097. Please indicate your name and the number you would like to book from your household—adults and children.

If you hear nothing back please assume that you have a place booked as **we will only contact you if a place is not available.** If we contact you to advise there isn't a place available we will offer you a place for the following Sunday.

Streaming Services online: we are continuing to stream our Sunday services in the church live at 10.30 a.m. through Youtube. It is also available to watch later if the time doesn't suit. There is a chat feature if you would like to use it.

Watch on your TV or Tablet If you have a SMART TV or Tablet and an Internet connection you will be able to watch the services on your TV. Open YouTube and search for "Loanhead Parish Church." If you subscribe to our channel you will have an easy connection for future weeks. If you need help setting this up on your TV or Tablet please let us know.



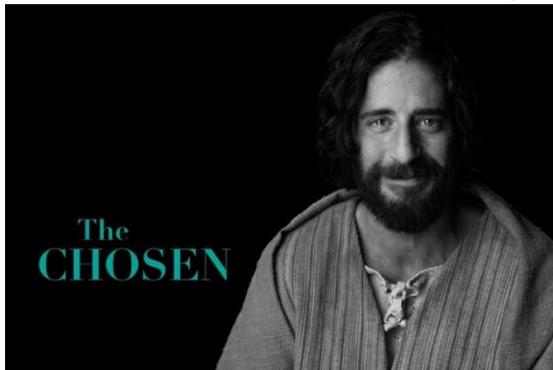
Phone 0131 297 6197: The Sunday service is available on our phone line from 1 p.m. on Sundays and midweek our "thought for the day."

Sunday Gathering is at 11.30 a.m. on Sundays. Hosted on Zoom this provides a more informal setting to share. After half an hour we break into smaller groups to allow folk to chat and share — like having tea and coffee after our morning service! Meeting ID: 951 9272 3946 Passcode: 904377

“Thought for the Day” is a short 3-minute reflection available Monday to Friday on the website and the phone line, with different people sharing in leading these.

Midweek reflections and discussion are held via Zoom fortnightly on Tuesdays.

The Chosen is a new television drama based on the life of Jesus Christ, created, directed and co-written by American filmmaker Dallas

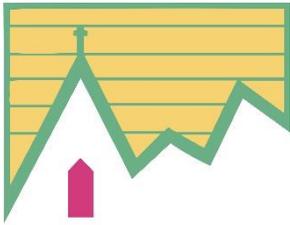


Jenkins. A number of people locally have really enjoyed it and they are not alone as 97% of Google users liked it and it is rated 9.7/10 on IMBd by 16,000 users

“Trust me trust me trust me. This isn't your regular "faith based movie". It's

good really good. So inspiring. The end of the first one I was hooked. Great writing and so creative.” Online review

You can watch the series on your own on Youtube or the Chosen App, all for free – but we are also planning to find ways to share together our reflections on it. Pamela Kennedy is going to be heading this up so speak to her or any of the staff team and watch for more information over the coming months.



Church FINANCES

Over the last fifteen months, the financial giving of members and others has been maintained and we are very grateful to members and others who continue to support the work of the church in this way. The drop in income from both hall lets and fund raising has partly been off-set by reduced gas and electricity costs. We also furloughed staff members earlier in the year and have been asked for a reduced contribution to national

funds in 2021.

All of this ensures that there has been stability to our finances despite the massive changes we have faced and allowed us to complete some work on the roof and stonework earlier in the year.

Football Camp

We are still trying to sort out the logistics for football camp this summer, but it will almost certainly be completely outdoors with three separate age groups operating independently and gazebos in the park so that we don't have to move inside.. At the moment it looks like it will be the last week in July. This gives us a great opportunity to share with youngsters in a sport setting and to explore some of how the bible feeds into everyday life for them.



This has always been a busy week, enjoyed both by the children and their parents, who get a break for the morning! We will confirm dates and post details about how to book on the church website and Facebook page later in the month.



From September 2020, Loanhead Parish Church has been a member of the Scottish Growing Young Cohort. The 10 members of Loanhead's Growing Young team have been busy attending webinars and summits, as well as having plenty of meetings to discuss what we have learned and how we can move forward as a church.

Growing Young is an initiative developed by the Fuller Youth Institute in Pasadena, USA, who are passionate about the power that young people (those aged 15-29) can have in our churches. They have identified six key strategies that allow young people to discover and love the church:

Unlock keychain leadership – instead of centralizing authority, empower others, especially young people.

Empathize with today's young people – instead of judging or criticizing, step into the shoes of this generation.

Take Jesus' message seriously – instead of asserting formulaic gospel claims, welcome young people into a Jesus-centred way of life.

Fuel a warm community – instead of focusing on cool worship or programs, aim for warm peer and intergenerational friendships

Prioritize young people (and families) everywhere – instead of giving lip service to how much young people matter, look for creative ways to tangibly support, resource, and involve them in all facets of your congregation.

Be the best neighbours – instead of condemning the world outside your walls, enable young people to neighbour well locally and globally

As we have taken time to work through these six key strategies with the Fuller Youth Institute team, it has become startlingly obvious to us how few of our congregation are aged between 15 and 29. Even though we have made progress on some of the above objectives as a church in recent years, we are still a long way from being a church that retains and inspires young people in their faith. This has certainly created a sense of urgency within the team and a renewed desire to ensure that young people are valued here at Loanhead Parish Church.

With that in mind, the Loanhead Growing Young team have created the vision below:

To be a Jesus-centred community containing people confident in talking about faith and committed to being involved in the wider community and beyond:

- An intergenerational church with people connected across generations
- Where all generations are represented with as many under 45's as over 45's
- With younger people increasingly shaping and leading the church

We hope that this vision is something that everyone in Loanhead Parish Church will embrace and want to help to achieve. We look forward to hearing from you about how you think we can achieve this vision as we work through each of the six key strategies mentioned above during our Sunday services.

The Growing Young Team

Alan Duffin, Audrey McLaren, Kayleigh Brown, Caroline Brownsell, Margaret Hurst, Louise Ferguson, Amy Pickering, Kyle Anderson, Kieva Downie, and Graham Duffin

Project Stedfast



It has been a while since I have been able to give you an update on the Project but I am very pleased that I am able to do so now.

Like everywhere else in the world, everything came to halt with the pandemic. But as restrictions have been lifted, St Andrews School has reopened and is thriving now. The school role has dramatically risen to 280 pupils and 16 teachers. I can also say that finally, after a long wait, work has started on a further 3 classrooms. As I write this the foundations are already down and the brickwork to start any day now. This is great news, especially to members of the Project Stedfast 125 Club, where your regular donations have made this possible.

As things are moving at a great pace I will endeavour to keep you updated.

Jim Ralston



On a personal note, as some of you are aware, I am currently undergoing chemotherapy again as cancer has returned. After I received the diagnosis I had to take the hard decision to retire from the Boys' Brigade. This decision was not taken lightly as the BB has been a major part of my life for the last 44 years.

Joining the Junior Section in 1977 then rising through the ranks to becoming a leader and then the last 12 years as Captain. I have considered myself to be very lucky what I have experienced with this great organisation and so many highlights.

From the number of great people I have met through the BB, numerous camps here in the UK and to Austria, our involvement in Project Stedfast in Kenya to name just a few. But the most important highlight is meeting all the boys and young men that have become a member of the Loanhead BB family. I take great pride in watching these boys grow into young men, in the hope the Boys' Brigade has played a big part in their lives.

I will continue to be involved in Project Stedfast but as for the 1st Loanhead Boys' Brigade I have to say goodbye. My main focus now is my own health and the future.

Thank you all for the support you have given me and I hope you will continue with that support to all the staff as they take the Company forward.

Jim Ralston



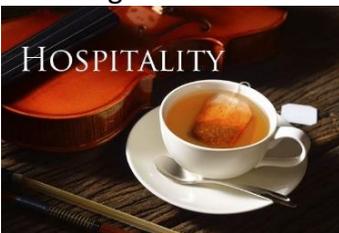
As a church we are incredibly grateful for all of the work that Jim has done as an officer in the Boys' Brigade and over these last 12 years as Captain. I don't think I have ever met anyone as steeped in or committed to the BB as Jim – following a strong family tradition – and for the last few years until Covid hit, Jim was leading both the Company and Junior sections on

Wednesday and Thursday evenings. In all of this, his support for the boys within the company has been exemplary, helping to give them a solid grounding in life that has stood them in good stead.

When Jim posted about his retirement on Facebook (where Jim is a frequent visitor!) it was so encouraging to read the comments from young men who looked back on their time in the BB at Loanhead and deeply appreciated all that had been shared with them. Their words and appreciation mean more than anything we can share, but we do wish to thank Jim for all he has done. Be warned Jim, at an appropriate time (soon we hope) we will find a way to mark your retirement. And be assured of our continued prayers for your health and well being.

Of real note in all of this though and deserving special mention has been Jim's involvement in Project Stedfast, with Jim a key person in helping to get everything set up at the very start. Trips to Kenya have been a highlight for so many boys, helping to open their eyes in a new way to the ways that what we do can enrich and bless the lives of others. It has also been something we have been privileged to share in as a church, in seeing the school and children's centre grow and flourish.

We are grateful that Jim is continuing with Project Stedfast and pleased that Jane Davidson has been willing to step into the role of Captain. Jane has been leading the Anchor Boys for a few years and is stepping in to lead the Junior section as well. Andrew Ralston is taking on officer in charge of the company section.



Graham Duffin

We have missed out on opportunities to meet together informally over the last few months so over June and July, Jane and I are going to be hosting opportunities to share in morning coffee, cream teas or BBQ's at the manse – just a chance to get together informally with a few others. The recent news that we are not yet

moving to level 1 does restrict numbers a bit, but we hope to get started with this in the next few weeks. We'll give you opportunities to book a place so that we stay within the numbers that we are allowed and will use the manse garden rather than be inside. If the weather is inclement we will put up a gazebo!

We also want to encourage others in the church to do the same thing – to be practicing Christian hospitality in a way that enriches us all. So if you have a garden big enough for four, six or eight people to share and not be on top of one another, why not invite a few people to share with you?

Loanhead Litter Lift

We recently supported this community initiative using community outreach monies to fund a donation of children's litter pickers and rubbish bag hoops. The litter lifts at the end of March and May have been a great success with over 50 volunteers of all ages taking part. If you would like to take part in future litter lifts you can find details on the "Loanhead Litter Lift" Facebook page



Church Youth Group

A small group of young people have continued to meet on Thursday evenings during the whole period of Covid lockdowns and restrictions, either meeting online via Zoom or in person. Led by Alan and Kieva, these have provided great opportunities to explore faith together. We are so encouraged to have this group of young people around the church and to see them involved in different ways.



Pamela Kennedy is joining us for the next 15 months – through to August 2022 – to complete her training as a Church of Scotland minister.

We look forward to welcoming her and the family when they are able to join us and have asked Pamela to say a bit about herself as she comes to share with us

I'm delighted to be introducing myself as Probationer Minister joining you at Loanhead PC for the next 15 months. I've been asked to say a little about myself here and look forward to being able to meet you 'properly' over the next while.

I live in Peebles with my husband Dougal, two boys Roderick and Struan (11 and 10), our black lab Callie and our cat Mouse. I've been 'officially' training for ministry for three years, before which I was an Educational Psychologist in the Borders for 10 years (and a secondary school teacher in West Lothian prior to that). I first heard God's call to ministry when my younger son was only months old but thankfully I had a while to prepare – and be prepared! I've just finished my theology degree at Highland Theological College. During those years I had short placements at Ashkirk and Selkirk, Gorebridge and Tron Kirk (Gilmerton Moredun) respectively, all of which I loved and all of which blessed and taught me so much. I've been working with Graham, Audrey and others on Growing Young over the past while so have got to know them a little and these interactions helped me to discern God's call to request placement with you for Probation.

I'm really looking forward to being able to connect with you as congregation and community. Having spoken with Graham, it's clear that God is at work in exciting ways, not only amongst you but within the local area, and I am reminded that no unprecedented circumstance is an obstacle to our God and that even now He is working His purposes among and through us. I love the community feel of Loanhead and already have a sense of the strong 'team' feel of LPC. As you may have spotted, community and connectedness are really important to me and I have the sense that there is a very good 'fit' here. Please don't hesitate to say hello, and please forgive me if it takes a while for me to remember names – I'll do my very best!

CHRISTIAN AID 2021



While we are dealing with the pandemic here it can be easy to forget others worldwide so it has been heartening to have had such a positive response to this year's Christian Aid Appeal. To date our current

total is £945! Many thanks to all who supported the appeal, in particular Elizabeth Veitch who provided afternoon teas, those who helped to deliver them and anyone involved in the initiative. Your support is very much appreciated.



The Guild are looking at what the format should be for their meetings when they are able to re-start, with a possibility of the monthly meetings moving to afternoon meetings instead

of evening, or a mix of the two.

MOPS

I am delighted to report that MOPS has been able to return for 4 meetings before the summer break. It is in the format of a mum and baby/toddler group at the moment to meet with Covid19 restrictions, but the mums are so grateful to have something to attend where they can chat with other mums and also to see their children socialising with others.

We have had a few new mums join us with newborn babies and it is so lovely to see their little ones watching the toddlers running around and the mums getting advice and support from each other.

We are hopeful that after the summer we can get back to the MOPS format where we have MOPS Kids crèche so the mums can listen to a talk and have some discussion around different topics that will help to make them the best mums, friends, partners and women they can be.

Find us on social media @MOPSLPC or email mopsatlpc@gmail.com



Fellowship walking group

This group meets monthly on the last Wednesday of each month. We meet at the church gates at 7pm and walk for about an hour to an hour and a half, chatting as we go and covering a broad range of topics. Please do join us. Speak to Audrey McLaren if you would like more details.



OUTDOOR CHURCH



After scheduling Outdoor Church for last year and having to cancel due to Covid19 restrictions, we are delighted that in May we held our first Outdoor Church and it was a huge success. Seven families came along and learnt about looking out for one another and showing kindness and friendship to anyone who is on their own, through the story of the Lost Sheep. Libby and Barry Macadam very kindly put their Scotia Adventure hats on www.scotiaadventure.com and all the kids (and one daddy!) had a go at

rock climbing. While one was climbing two others held the ropes to support them and keep them safe and this helped the children to learn how important it is that we are there for each other and how there are many things that we can't do alone.

We prayed for all the people in the world who feel lonely. We hid behind rocks and bushes and listened to all the nature sounds around us and tried to feel God's presence there with us. We made lost sheep biscuits and colourful twig stars. Our next Outdoor Church is planned for Sunday 6th June where we will be learning how to be the light in the world that reflects Jesus' love to everyone we come across. If you would like to join us please email canderson.lpc@gmail.com for booking info.





Haining Park in the Dandara houses has been named in honour of Jane Haining, a Church of Scotland missionary, who defied the Nazis during World War Two. The street sign was unveiled last week by the Hungarian Consul in Scotland, Tibor

Csaba Szendrei, who declared it open with a wave of the Hungarian flag and the minister attended the small ceremony on behalf of the Church of Scotland.

Born in 1897 in the village of Dunscore in Dumfries and Galloway, Miss Haining's selfless bravery in protecting the children in her care at the expense of her own life led to her being posthumously awarded a Heroine of the Holocaust medal by the UK Government.

Tremendous courage

She is the only Scot to be named Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, Israel's memorial to victims of the Holocaust.

Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, convener of the Faith Impact Forum of the Church of Scotland, said: "We are delighted that Haining Park in Loanhead has been named after Jane Haining who showed real courage in the face of intolerable evil during a dark period of history.

"A woman of deep Christian faith, she was fully aware of the risks she was taking but repeatedly refused to leave Budapest and return home to Scotland as the war engulfed Europe. Jane was determined to continue doing her duty and stick to her post, saying 'If these children need me in days of sunshine, how much more do they need me in days of darkness?'.

"Her story is moving, humbling, heart-breaking and inspirational and we hope that this honour will help keep her memory alive for generations to come."