

Final Arrangements

Under current restrictions I have struggled to think of the best way to finish. Back in April I decided to delay my retiral to Sunday 15 November, going beyond the October school holidays, the Communion date 1 November and Remembrance Sunday 8 November. Despite that extra five months, sadly we are no further forward with Covid 19 and consequently with the discussions and plans for the future of the Town Centre Churches.

More positively, we have been able to use the church for the last five Sundays but with only a small number admitted to the actual church. It is clear that quite a lot of people would want to be at my 'last' Sunday service as was planned for in June, but today that means several gallons wanting to get into a pint pot!

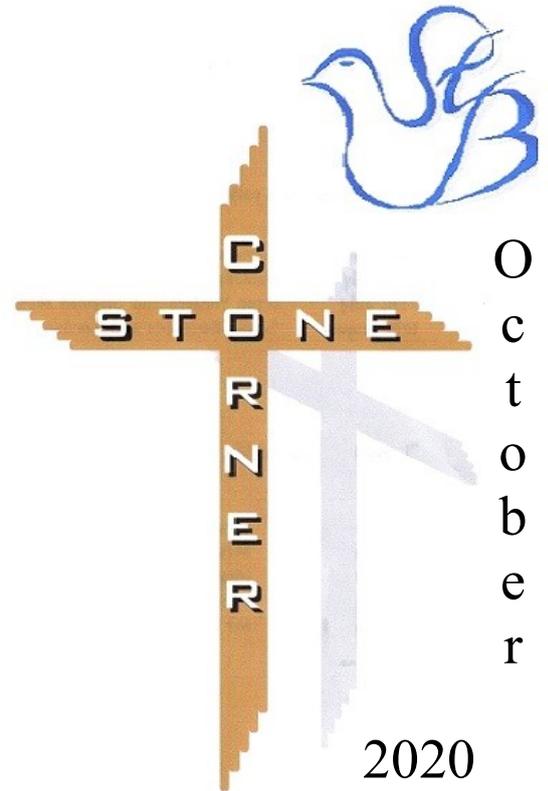
The decision, announced on Sunday past, 18 October, is that I will take three 'Last Sunday' services on 15/22/29 November. The basic theme will be much the same each week. Anyone wanting to be in the church will be required to book a place for one of those dates. You will not be allowed to attend more than one. This applies only to the sanctuary itself. The usual overflow to Coffee Bar and Large Hall to access the video link will be available on a first come, first served basis each week.

This allows over 100 people to be part of the 'last' service in the sanctuary, albeit over three weeks and of course the Services will be broadcast in the usual way and will continue to be available on Youtube and the church website. Perhaps if/when we get on top of Covid, it might be possible to have a proper gathering in the church, with choir, band, a congregation in full voice and lots and lots of big warm hugs on the way out.

Book your Sunday by phoning Anne Hunter our Session Clerk on 265927.

What happens next?

Justin Taylor, minister of Abbotshall Church will be your Interim Moderator and there will be a growing together of the two congregations. There is a realism in both Congregations about this and a willingness to make necessary changes, eg time and place of worship, and much else besides. There is much to be gained in working positively together. Justin and I have a warm personal friendship and a lot in common. I could



not wish for a better person to guide and lead through the challenging times ahead. Justin and I have a mutual complaint one about the other, namely "Your timing is lousy!" - that is his arrival, my departure. We would love to have had several more years sharing ministry together. I have benefitted greatly from having him as friend and colleague and from the things we have already done together both in work and in personal time. He will be the 'go to person' for all church matters and pastoral concerns and I urge you to give him your support and commitment, to open your hearts to him as so many of you have done to me.

Ken

Church Register - 2020

Weddings

10 October Catherine McArthur and Alec Millar



Deaths

"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish" - John 10 : 28

3 March Mrs Helen Key, Tarbolton Court
10 May Mrs Margaret Thomson, Percival Street
18 June Mr David Blair, Annsmuir Place
20 September Mrs Margaret Holyhead, Valley Gardens



New Members

Rev and Mrs Ian Elston
Longbraes Gardens



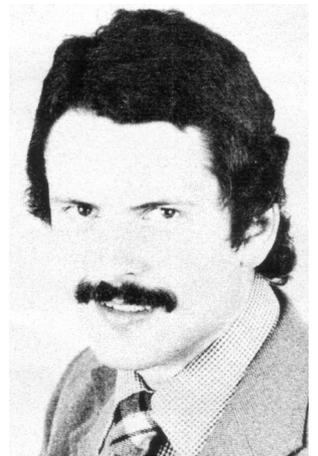
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The Time Has Come ...

...for us to say 'thank you' and 'fare well' to this young man who was ordained on 28 August 1979 as a Church of Scotland minister, and inducted to the charge of Kirkcaldy: St Brycedale. The previous year, when the Kirk Session debated the criteria for seeking a new minister, they had agreed on these criteria - not a woman, a man aged over 40, having perhaps written a book or published some studies, and not entering his first charge. When the vacancy committee found Ken Froude as a probationer minister in Aberdeen, he fulfilled none of these criteria - except that he was not a woman!!



And so began what was to become a lifetime of Christian work, witness and service in Kirkcaldy. The St Brycedale congregation in 1979 was quite staid and traditional in its ways. Ken introduced changes gently - no robes and not using the pulpit, but playing the guitar in church and having Bible study groups, and ... ordaining lady elders! In 1981 St Brycedale celebrated its centenary, so Ken was thrown right in there. A Celebration performance called "100 Not Out" was staged, with Ken as Master of Ceremonies. Lots of church members took part, singing and dancing through the ages, and that included Ken performing dance routines. The video (now a DVD) is still available if you haven't seen it!!

From arriving in 1979 with his wife, Agnes-Ann, and eight-month old daughter, Jennifer, soon joined in 1981 by son Stuart, Ken has always welcomed children into the church, making young families feel very at ease about "wee ones" toddling about during worship and encouraging the congregation to be tolerant of a bit of noise till the children went to Sunday School / Young Church. Children have led worship, and taken part regularly over the years. Prior to lockdown we still had a good number of children attending.

During the 80's, government funds were available for youth training in specific areas. Dane Sherrard, minister at Buckhaven, had set one up. Taking a leaf out of his book, Ken set up St Brycedale Youth Training Scheme which prepared youngsters for work in Care Homes. He got Val Malcolm and a few other church members involved in running the scheme, using the halls as classrooms, but a room in the manse as their office. In this decade Ken also got us started in House Groups with a programme called Serendipity, a venture which had a profound effect building Christian community within our membership, and enabling several people to be involved in leading these discussions. He started up the Sunday Club for our teenagers, and began organising skiing trips to the Compass Christian Centre in Glenshee; followed by encouraging teenagers and adults alike to St Ninian's Centre in Crieff for Bible study and discussion weekends there. Having taken the young folk to meet a Christian band called Scotroc, he then encouraged them in setting up their own praise band - you might remember them playing at Pentecost in the Park. One other thing he changed at this time (which has stuck with us) was to move the Christmas Eve service from midnight to 8.30 pm so that families might be included.



St. Brycedale Church

Back at the Centenary Dinner in 1981, Archie Reddick, one of our notable elders, spoke of a vision of the building with sanctuary upstairs and lots of useful room space downstairs. The young Ken Froude embraced that vision and set about finding ways to bring it to fruition. Using offers by the Manpower Services Commission to fund projects which would re-employ lots of miners, Ken set up the St Brycedale Redevelopment Project which happened between 1987 and 1989, while the congregation worshipped in the Boys' Brigade Hall on Victoria Road. Thus was created the St Brycedale Centre with the kite as its logo. The Youth Training Scheme moved to share the office space with Centre staff, led by Beryl Luke, and later installed the portacabins round the back as their classroom and office.

So Ken's second decade took on a whole new look and feel, with the church's door open every day - a place where young people could feel welcome and comfortable as they came to classes, and where our local community could hold meetings, conferences or concerts at less expensive prices. Once the coffee bar took off in popularity, even more people came through the open doors- surprised to meet with a minister wearing jeans, but no dog collar!! The 90's was a busy decade for Ken Froude, beginning with his pulpit exchange with Don Baird from the First Presbyterian Church in Salt Lake City, Utah. He came back with new ideas for discussion services, celebration of praise services, festival of choirs. We had breakfasts together, lunches together, barbecues, volunteers' receptions. He also embraced many new study initiatives during this decade, including Neighbourhoods, Learning Together, Positive Parenting and - who could forget! - the Alpha Course!!



Once again, Ken didn't do these by himself - he persuaded several members to help as discussion group leaders, catering helpers, whatever was needed!

In 1995, he led a group from the congregation on a trip to Israel where the scripture readings came alive for us as we visited Galilee, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Gethsemane, Jerusalem, the Garden Tomb. During this decade, too, Ken began mentoring students and probationers, coaching and encouraging them in their journey of faith. There are now many names on that list, from Ron Anderson in the 90's through to the present day and Trudi Newton.

By the turn of the century, the Church of Scotland was looking to reduce the number of its charges, and so St Brycedale united with Kirkcaldy Old Kirk to form St Bryce Kirk, the name agreed by the new congregation, and with a new logo. This third decade provided Ken with challenges to do with the use of two churches for worship, including the redevelopment of the Old Kirk building. But it also brought opportunities to support caring fellowship and provide more energising events – Friendship Sundays, Summer Clubs and the Church Future Group. We had three American choirs visiting in 2000, 2003 and 2004 through a contact

with Bill Cumming. Ann Winters succeeded Beryl Luke in running the Centre, a job she has continued until this current year. Following a visit to Charlotte, N. Carolina, in 2006 Ken set up another new venture - the Student Feed - which built up until it was serving over 100 soup lunches to students every Wednesday - again with a team of volunteers running it. Discussion Groups during this time were Table Talk, and Future Focus, and Ken also instigated Lent and Advent studies, always seeking to engage and challenge us in our lives as Christians. Towards the end of this third decade, our buildings and finances were needing attention so again Ken stirred us up - this time to tackle a new stewardship campaign called Gifts for God.

By the time Ken's fourth decade had begun, our congregational circumstances had changed again when the Old Kirk Trust bought and took over maintenance of the Old Kirk building. In this last decade, the patterns of living and society have all changed. St Bryce Kirk congregation has embraced the challenge of reducing its carbon footprint in several ways, including solar panel power. Audiovisual technology has moved on apace too, and the church has had to move to keep abreast of changes. Ken's most recent study/discussion groups have been called Backchat and were happening on a Saturday morning over coffee (not since March, of course). St Bryce Kirk now streams its Sunday services live through YouTube, and provides audio recordings of every service on its website, and that has proved to be a great asset during this year of lockdown and restrictions to worship. Until March the cafe was still a haven for those who needed a cup of tea or a plate of soup, but had no money, and for a few years it also served as a busy central outlet for the Foodbank.



Once the young people who made up the Sealed for Life Praise Band had all gone off to university, or to work further afield, Ken set about getting other people together to form a band, and although the membership of the Band has changed over the years, we are all delighted to still have them leading us in worship and entertaining at our Care Team events.

Ken may not have effected all of these changes personally, but he has been the instigator of most of them, plus the enabler, encourager and supporter of those who did get involved to put them into effect. He involved others in worship before a lot of other ministers did. He has always had a knack of finding just the right people - willing 'volunteers' to run the projects, staff them, work on them and bring them to fruition. Ken has believed in us, his congregation, and encouraged us to use our gifts and talents. Okay, there have maybe been a few flops along the way, but to quote the man himself "If we were to do this again, how could we do it better?" We learned from our mistakes, and the successes of Ken Froude's 41 year ministry in this congregation's life far outweigh the failures. He has given to this congregation a lifetime



- of Christian witness, teaching, preaching and prayer;
- of compassion, service and friendship;
- of listening, accepting, understanding and counselling.

And so it is that with grateful hearts full of respect, admiration, praise and love, as well as our thanks, that we now say 'THANK YOU' and 'FARE WELL'.

May God bless you in the days to come, Ken, and grant you peace, health and fulfilment in your retirement.

Congregational Memory Book

As you know, the plans we had to celebrate Ken's 41 year ministry have had to be reviewed due to Covid 19. The planning group had thought a book of reflections/memories that the congregation have about Ken could be collated into an album and given to him.

Prior to Covid, a few students who had worked with Ken and members who had moved away, sent their contributions, all very different but all heart warming. We would like to ask you to write your own memory or reflection and either post it to the church or pop it through the church letterbox, addressed to :-

Rae Walker or email them to rae.walker@hotmail.com

The plan is to collate this and hand it over to Ken sometime next year

The deadline for contributions is 31st December.

Thank you

Rae Walker

PS Anyone who wants to add to the gift for Ken, but has not yet done so, has until 10 November to get their contribution to Anne Hunter (cheques payable to St Bryce Kirk)



Christmas IS Coming!!

2020 has been a year like no other, but Christmas will still happen in a few weeks' time and I have received the usual communication from the Meaningful Chocolate Company about their Real Advent Calendars. The price has been kept the same at £3.99, and as you know, each calendar comes complete with a story activity book.

NEW for this year is a Chocolate Orange Christingle, priced £3. It comes in a Christingle styled box with an explanation of the symbols, and may well be just something a little bit different for 'bigger children' on your gift list.



Money raised from the sales of these items helps Fairtrade farmers receive a fair price for their produce which in turn helps their communities purchase equipment they need, like access to fresh water, or installing solar panels to power teaching resources and enable distance learning.

I have put the poster on the noticeboard in the church, but am aware that not everyone will be able to access the order form there. So – if you would like to order any Calendars or Christingles, please phone me on 01592 264618 or text me on 07801511864 or email me on berylluke@gmail.com Orders should be with me by Sunday 29 November, please.

Beryl Luke

Tribute to David Blair

A great supporter of the church of St Brycedale /St Bryce Kirk and of his minister, David was ordained as an elder 1983 and served on the Kirk Session over many years. He served and helped at so many church events and programmes over the years and frequently worked alongside Laura in the church grounds. And who can forget his powerful declamatory delivery when reading the Sunday lessons as he loved to do. He was outraged when he saw injustices, fulsome when he saw something to praise. Ready to speak out in any group on almost any subject, David was also a conscientious visitor as a district elder and his Christian faith was strong and a deep faith if not entirely orthodox. He loved to sing, he had a strong clear voice and was quite uninhibited in singing out, unconcerned by any divergence from tune or tempo.

There was always a twinkle in his eye, that meaningful gaze, the head slightly forward and to one side, the hand on the shoulder. He had a distinctive, penetrating voice sometimes almost husky, those moving arms, gesticulations adding emphasis and energy to his every word. Always proud of his Aberdeen heritage he would lapse into the dialect at the drop of a hat.

Red wine was a delight, tied in with his love of everything Spanish. He was particularly good with older/elderly women, going back to his beloved granny and yes he loved to chat to women of any age. David was a great character, distinctive and energetic. He will be greatly missed.

Finance Team Report for Cornerstone October 2020

The finance situation is pretty bleak with a projected deficit of approx. £60,000. This is partly due to furlough and redundancy payments. There has been a huge loss in Hall Lets income down from £55,000 to £8,000.

The Treasurer estimates that we need approx. £30,000 or we are likely to run out of funds by October as we still have to pay our Ministry & Mission allocation and insurance on the building.

Sunday offerings are as follows:-

	2020		2019	
	Open	FWO	Open	FWO
July – Sept.	£267	£2,180.00	£1,298.38	£3,163.50
S/O July – Sept. 2020	£12,136.10		S/O July - Sept. 2019	£10,882.50

As you will see from the above figures the giving from the Open Plate and Freewill Offering envelopes are down quite considerably, although a few members have changed from the FWO envelopes to Standing Order.

If you have been unable to attend church recently and feel unsure about attending due to Covid19 but still wish to make a contribution, there are several ways in which you can do this:-

You can write a cheque, pop it in an envelope along with a note indicating Open Plate or FWO, and either post it to the church or put it through the letterbox at the front door.

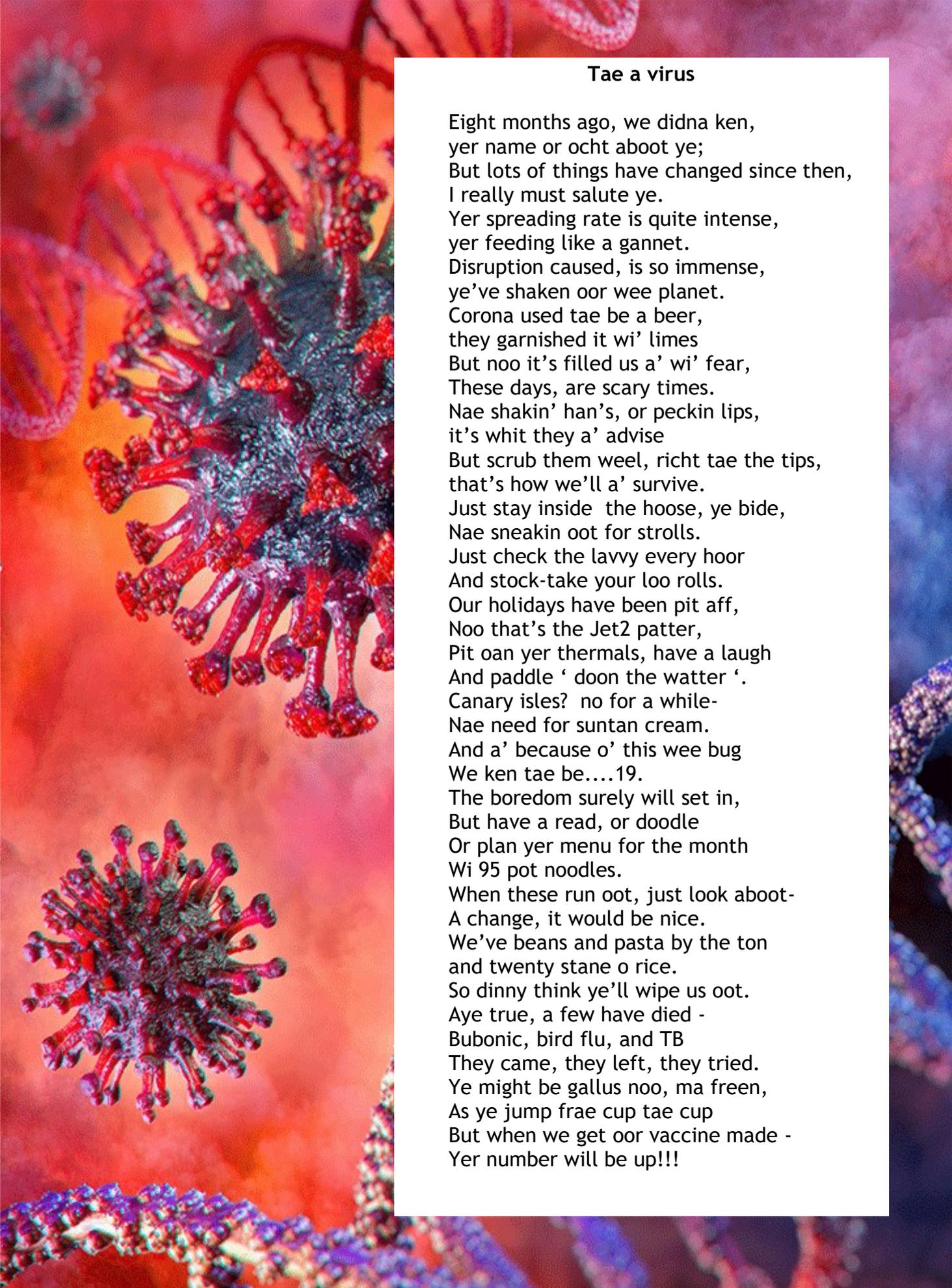
You can put your FWO envelopes in another envelope and put that through the church letterbox.

You can make a payment from your bank account to the Church account.

For details of the Church bank account or any other queries please phone:-

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Dorothy Smith, Convener. (01592 265808



Tae a virus

Eight months ago, we didna ken,
yer name or ocht about ye;
But lots of things have changed since then,
I really must salute ye.

Yer spreading rate is quite intense,
yer feeding like a gannet.

Disruption caused, is so immense,
ye've shaken oor wee planet.

Corona used tae be a beer,
they garnished it wi' limes

But noo it's filled us a' wi' fear,
These days, are scary times.

Nae shakin' han's, or peckin lips,
it's whit they a' advise

But scrub them weel, richt tae the tips,
that's how we'll a' survive.

Just stay inside the hoose, ye bide,
Nae sneakin oot for strolls.

Just check the lavvy every hoor
And stock-take your loo rolls.

Our holidays have been pit aff,
Noo that's the Jet2 patter,

Pit oan yer thermals, have a laugh
And paddle ' doon the watter '.

Canary isles? no for a while-
Nae need for suntan cream.

And a' because o' this wee bug
We ken tae be....19.

The boredom surely will set in,
But have a read, or doodle

Or plan yer menu for the month
Wi 95 pot noodles.

When these run oot, just look about-
A change, it would be nice.

We've beans and pasta by the ton
and twenty stane o rice.

So dinny think ye'll wipe us oot.
Aye true, a few have died -

Bubonic, bird flu, and TB
They came, they left, they tried.

Ye might be gallus noo, ma freen,
As ye jump frae cup tae cup

But when we get oor vaccine made -
Yer number will be up!!!