

FEBRUARY 2021



Greetings from St Bryce ,

We pray that you are keeping well and staying safe during this lockdown. It is not easy for any of us but we know that obeying the rules is the safe and only way to get control of Covid – 19. The pandemic is affecting not only us in our “small corners” but the whole World.

We are not permitted to hand-distribute a newsletter at present, so, to keep you updated, we are taking the unusual step of sending this out by post to those for whom we do not have an email address. We look forward to soon being able to keep you up-dated using our faithful band of Distributors and we thank them for all their work in the past

The future is still unclear; many decisions need to be made and there is still work to be done but this is a time when we need to be positive in our planning.

December saw Abbotshall and St Bryce sharing services. During this new lockdown, the Kirkcaldy Town Centre Churches worked in a rota and that will continue for a time at least

The situation nationally and locally is changing from week to week but we need to move forward with an optimistic attitude.

Stay Safe and Keep well. We are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.

Isobel M Greenaway (Communications Team Convener)

If you have an email address, send an email to:- georgeluke.kdy@gmail.com and you will be added to the e-mailing list and receive more future updates.

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Walking through the chaos of 2020 has been difficult for us all and so far 2021 is proving just to be a continuation of the same. However, I would expect that many of you will already have had your vaccination or will at least have an appointment for it. That is just so encouraging. It gives us all a boost and a realistic hope of perhaps returning to normality sometime.....

As far as Pastoral Care activities go obviously nothing is possible.

May I remind you of the Questionnaire that was included in the last Newsletter and ask that, if you have not responded to that yet, you take a minute to have a look at it and make your response.

Please do remember that although we cannot meet together we are only at the end of a phone if there is any way at all that we can be of help to you.

I would like to share with you a way of praying that I have found to be helpful in these difficult days. It is from a site called "Contemplative Monk"

The Jesus Breath Prayer.

Sit quietly.....play soft music or light a candle if you wish

Take three breaths

releasing the weight of the day
and slowly centre yourself into your heart.

Breathe in this moment...

Let the stillness soak into your being.

Breathe in forgiveness

and breath out releasing and letting go.

Breathe in faith and breathe out thanksgiving

Breathe in silently saying, 'Jes',
and breathe out silently saying, 'us'

Saying inwardly, deeper as a breath prayer. Close your eyes

Allow a warm soft smile to lighten your face as you breathe naturally.

Breathe in silently saying, 'Jes',
and breathe out silently saying, 'us'

Allowing the rhythm of your breath to take you deeper and deeper.

Breathe allowing yourself to feel
the joy of God's presence rejoicing in you.

Take as long as you like and savour the experience.

Dorothy Murray (Pastoral Care Team Convener)

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We have survived, what has seemed, a long January. It's a long time since the festive celebrations but, the daylight (if not *sunlight*) hours are getting longer and we look forward to Spring and 'new beginnings'.

Perhaps a phone call from someone from church could make a difference. Ideally, it's not something you should have to ask for, but as we sit at home in isolation, we realise these are no ordinary times. A phone call can make a difference.

If you would like someone to contact you, please call me, on 07834537942 and we can arrange to have a member of the church family give you a call on a regular basis for a chat.

Catherine Millar (Telephone Team Lead)

Tribute to Anne Hughes 21.05.34 - 25.12.20

Anne Dewar Cook was brought up in Kidd Street Kirkcaldy, her father a warehouseman. She was a late addition to the family 8 years junior to brother Bob. It was a good home and Anne was a favoured child. though sadly at the age of 13 her mother died and this impacted her significantly. At Viewforth High school she was good at arithmetic and English, and after school she went to a solicitor's office where she trained in shorthand, typing and secretarial skills. She did things by the book, liked things to be right and trained others to do the same. She later went on to work in the office of Barnet and Morton.

Anne attended the Old Kirk with her family, taught Sunday School at an early age, went on to join the Youth Fellowship where she got to know Bill Hughes. Bill had already embarked upon training for the Merchant Navy, and so Anne was left behind as Bill went off to sea in 1953. But the relationship proved strong and in 1956 they were married in the Old Kirk. They moved from a flat on the High St to Montgomery St in 1964, her home ever since. While Bill was at sea, Anne had long periods on her own, became independent, coping with whatever happened, and making a life for herself with the help of good neighbours, friends in the church and also in Girl Guiding.

In the fifties, Anne had become Brown Owl with the 10th Kirkcaldy Brownies, meeting in the Hunter Hall serving there for many years. But she also served as District Commissioner, Division Treasurer and finally as County Registrations Secretary until she retired and joined the Trefoil Guild in 2006. Anne kept the Girlguiding Fife records meticulously. Numbers were so much bigger then and everything was done on paper. She also ensured that the annual census was all paid on time, again a huge job with the number of units, districts and divisions - almost a full-time job! And everything was done with grace and patience.

In May 1979 Ann, followed Bill in being ordained a church elder and served in that capacity for over 40 years, receiving her Long Service Certificate in 2019. She was also a regular at the Guild over many years and was the Roll Keeper for St Bryce Kirk, until her death. As with so many, Anne and Bill found the tensions around the union of St Brycedale and the Old Kirk hard to bear. Finding real caring and support through difficult times, however, especially during 2007 when following illness, Bill died in July, Anne enjoyed a special place there and will be missed in several ways.

Anne had many contradictions. She needed people and friendships yet she was hard to get close to and had little awareness that her sometimes caustic comments caused hurt. She was serious and formal but she could laugh too. She had a good sense of humour and could laugh at herself. She enjoyed music some pop especially Engelbert, Pet Clark, as well as classical concerts, especially enjoying Nicola

Benedetti. She was a good friend, a heart of gold - was “Auntie Anne” to many people’s children! She enjoyed good health all her life, only recently mobility a worry, and in lockdown, anxious, turning in on herself a bit, no doubt worried about what her future would be.

What a way to go! - a shock for us all, but good for her. Her niece, Margaret said “We have many fond memories of Anne, and our last is of her this Christmas Eve, sitting at the patio doors, watching the birds and squirrels feeding at the bird table, glass of wine in hand, with those she loved and who loved her.”

Our thoughts and prayers of thanks and condolence go to wonderful neighbours Sheila and William; family members - cousins Ian and Alan Dewar and brother-in-law Malcolm Hughes and all their families, and especially to niece Margaret Campbell, and her husband Dennis, for their committed on-going care.

[Edited from the eulogy given on 14th January 2021 by Rev. Ken Froude]

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We have the order form for the REAL Easter eggs from the Meaningful Chocolate Company. The milk and white chocolate eggs are £4.50 and the dark chocolate is £5.50. All come with an activity book containing the Easter story; all are made with Fairtrade chocolate, are palm-oil free, and there is no plastic packaging used. So if you are interested in ordering one of these, please phone 264618 as soon as possible



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Our St Bryce Kirk office remains closed most of the time but our Church Administrator is dealing with any necessary ongoing paperwork. So if you want/ need to ask anything about congregational life, please phone 640016 or email office@stbrycekirk.org and leave a message. The Kirk Session is due to meet later this month, so get in touch with the Anne Hunter our Session Clerk on 265927 if there is something you'd like discussed. You can also phone or email any of the elders for advice or help, or just for a chat. The Finance Team can be contacted on 265808; the Pastoral Care Team on 264456; and the Communication Team on 566812. If you need to talk to a minister in person, however, you should contact Rev Justin Taylor on 267915 or email on:-

jtaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk

Take care and stay safe. Our Father in Heaven loves us with a never-ending love.

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