

The Bridge

Balerno Parish Church Newsletter

5th May 2020

Your newsletter

I hope you all enjoyed catching up with the news from Balerno Parish Church during this time of lockdown. Here are some more articles to keep you connected to what's happening and how we are adapting to our new normal. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to share their experiences, at this time. How are you coping? Have you become a 'zoom' expert? ? Been shopping for neighbours or benefited from the support of others? Learning a new skill? Enjoying the slower pace of life? Please share by sending your contributions to bpc-admin@balernochurch.org.uk. Stay safe.



Bringing Birthday Joy!



Hi, my name is Debbie McConnell. Some of you may know me through the Church, being part of the Jubilate singing group. Others might have been to one of my concerts, often performing with my daughter. Apart from working in Tesco, my other job is singing around care homes. Obviously this has not

been possible during lockdown and to say I'm missing it is a real understatement. So when Ishbel Smith 'tagged' me in a facebook request for someone to entertain for a 96th year old's birthday I was delighted to respond with a great big 'YES'. So on Friday, 24th April, a beautiful day, I found myself singing six of my favourite songs underneath an ornamental cherry tree in the back garden of retirement flats in Currie. Lots of residents came out their back doors to help celebrate this lovely lady's special day. While social distancing, we made some lovely memories. I was followed by Duncan Cameron who played three tunes on the pipes. It really was lovely.

If you know of anyone celebrating a birthday during these difficult times, I would be more than willing to shed a little happiness on their day, especially if they enjoy musicals and good old- fashioned tunes. Please take care everyone and stay safe!!

Singing, we gladly worship the Lord together

For me the hymns we sing during a normal church service add so much, they can challenge and inspire as well as simply be enjoyable to sing. While Andre and team have met the challenge of the virtual church service very well, I miss the singing. Others have formed virtual choirs and seeing other churches in action I wondered if we could do the same. This is not as straight forward as standing up on Sunday and singing together, each choir member has to record themselves singing and someone has to take all the contributions and put them together.

Responses to an email suggested there were enough choir members willing to take the plunge. That is the easy bit, we need everyone singing in the same key and at the same speed and once we have approximated to that someone needs to pull it all together into a choir. This last bit requires time and expertise and without John Burnside pulling the strands together we would not have completed even one hymn.

The first one was hard work as we all grappled with technology but having completed one we think we can provide a different hymn each week to be part of the Sunday service. A big thankyou to all those from the Choir, Jubilate and One Bar Rest who sang and to John for making it possible. Join us on Sunday. If you'd like to join 'The tunes. Fifteen' email me (mpetty712@gmail.com) and we will happily include you. Martin Petty

Mill Cafe News

I am pleased to be able to inform you that the 'new' Mill Café kitchen, complete with new gas range cooker and an improved ventilation system, will be up and running in readiness for the lifting of 'lockdown', and we look forward to welcoming you back to sample our wares. On the face of it, the kitchen may look more or less the same, but Café Manager Lynsey and her team are confident that the new equipment will allow them to reintroduce some menu items which have not been available for a while together with all your old favourites and to strive to introduce new snacks and lunches for you to enjoy. The Mill Café is a great place to socialise and so many people have made new friends that way. Why not speak to one of the staff members and ask about volunteering for a short spell each week – you'll be made most welcome. We all look forward to seeing you,
David Booth



Worship

Please remember you can access Sunday morning Worship, Andre's Daily Spiritual Exercises and Nanda's daily 'Kids Kirk' on the home page

'Working' from home

This newsletter comes to you from my very old laptop on my kitchen table as I adjust to my new working environment. It has been challenging especially with three hungry men around but I'm getting there.

Looking forward to getting back into the office and seeing you all again. Jennifer