



St Margaret's Parish Church, Glenrothes October 2020

It is seven months since the last issue of our magazine "The Window". The church may have been closed for most of that time, but a lot has been happening. In this short newsletter, it is only possible to tell you about some of them.

A rainbow of hope and pause for prayer

Near the beginning of lockdown rainbows of hope started to appear in windows. At St Margaret's we had our own rainbow. People passing the church are able to read "When you feel battered by life's storms and you are filled with doubt and dismay remember God's rainbow is coming. It is only a prayer away."



A wooden cross was placed outside the church on Good Friday. The cross was the starting point for our **Prayer Walk** – people were invited to walk around the church grounds. At various points, notices



encouraged them to pause, think, reflect and pray.

Candles

One week into lockdown we were invited to light candles in our windows at 7pm on Sunday, a light shining in the darkness and a sign of hope against the coronavirus. Here are a few of the candles that shone out from the homes of some of St

Margaret's people.



Birthday Surprises

Over the past six months, a number of us have celebrated "zero" birthdays. They include Ronnie Cameron, Joan Crook, Beth Gibb, Alistair Seath and Irene Ure. Many were not able to celebrate in the way they had hoped. John Ford, still shielding at the time of his something-zero birthday, was not even allowed to have cards but his family in Menstrie and Wisconsin were all able to join him online and they

seem to have had a great time.

Some people were surprised when groups of people – always obeying the social distancing rules – sang "Happy Birthday". Here is Gitte Gordon at her front door.



Eileen, our minister, was certainly



surprised when a group met her at an open space she passed on her morning walk.

Best wishes to all of them!!

If someone has been missed from this greeting, please let us know so that they will be included in the next newsletter.

Church Finance

Thanks to Fife Environment Trust for the £10,000 grant which has enabled us to install the new boiler. The remaining cost has been covered by the Ken Sayer legacy.

And to everyone for their continued donations throughout lockdown. We are especially grateful to have received a personal donation of £10,000.

Work in and around the church

During the time the church has been closed, a new central heating boiler has been installed to serve the sanctuary and small hall.

Work has started constructing the new car park.

Ruth Livingstone recently left her MDS post at St Margaret's to become manager of the Levenmouth food bank. She was presented with some gifts and thanked warmly for the work she has done with us.



Ruth says: "It has been a real privilege to work with the congregation at St Margaret's over the past 4 years. It has been full of ups and downs, challenges and changes but mostly joy, laughter and friendship...."

I am also thankful for the beautiful flowers and journal, and the gift voucher...It is time for me to move onto a new job, but this is not goodbye. I am excited to find out what God has in store for me in St Margaret's on this journey we are taking together."

Gifts of Love

During the lockdown period, Eileen delivered cards to 175 residents of care homes in

the parish. A craft team, including Moira McEwan, Liz Rollo, Babs Robertson and Helen Morrow, made bags for nurses, carers and other staff to carry their uniforms to/from work.

Pairs of knitted hearts were given, one to a resident and a matching one to a family member as a tangible symbol of connection.



Here is Eileen is presenting bags and hearts to staff and residents in Lomond Court.

Harvest Letter from the Minister

Dear Friends,

In this season of Harvest thanksgiving, one of the things that I am giving thanks for is the small acts of kindness over the last 6 months; phone calls, cards, emails, texts, birthday surprises, gifts, offers of help with shopping, laundry bags, knitted hearts, sponsored walks to raise funds for the church, etc.

In the midst of the challenges of covid-19, people up and down the country responded with acts of kindness.

Let's not get weary of keeping in touch and caring for others. Thank you to Liz Rollo, the Editor of our first

newsletter which aims to keep us all in touch.

Seeds of love have been



sown and, as it is with any seeds, they will need to be nurtured.

This Harvest we are supporting the Glenrothes Foodbank with donations of food, toiletries, toilet rolls, juice, tea bags, coffee etc. We are also supporting refugees from the Moria camp in Lesbos, Greece by donating to the work that Callum King is doing there with his partners. Callum is the brother of our organist Robbie. If you want to help, please get in touch with our treasurer, Jo Wylie (630560).

Eileen

Sunday Worship is at 10am in the church and on Zoom. ID: 871 7204 3700 Passcode: 090012

Church services are uploaded onto our YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkICF0L1Y6kjAqp4ePGsRg>

Website: www.stmargaretchurch.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St>