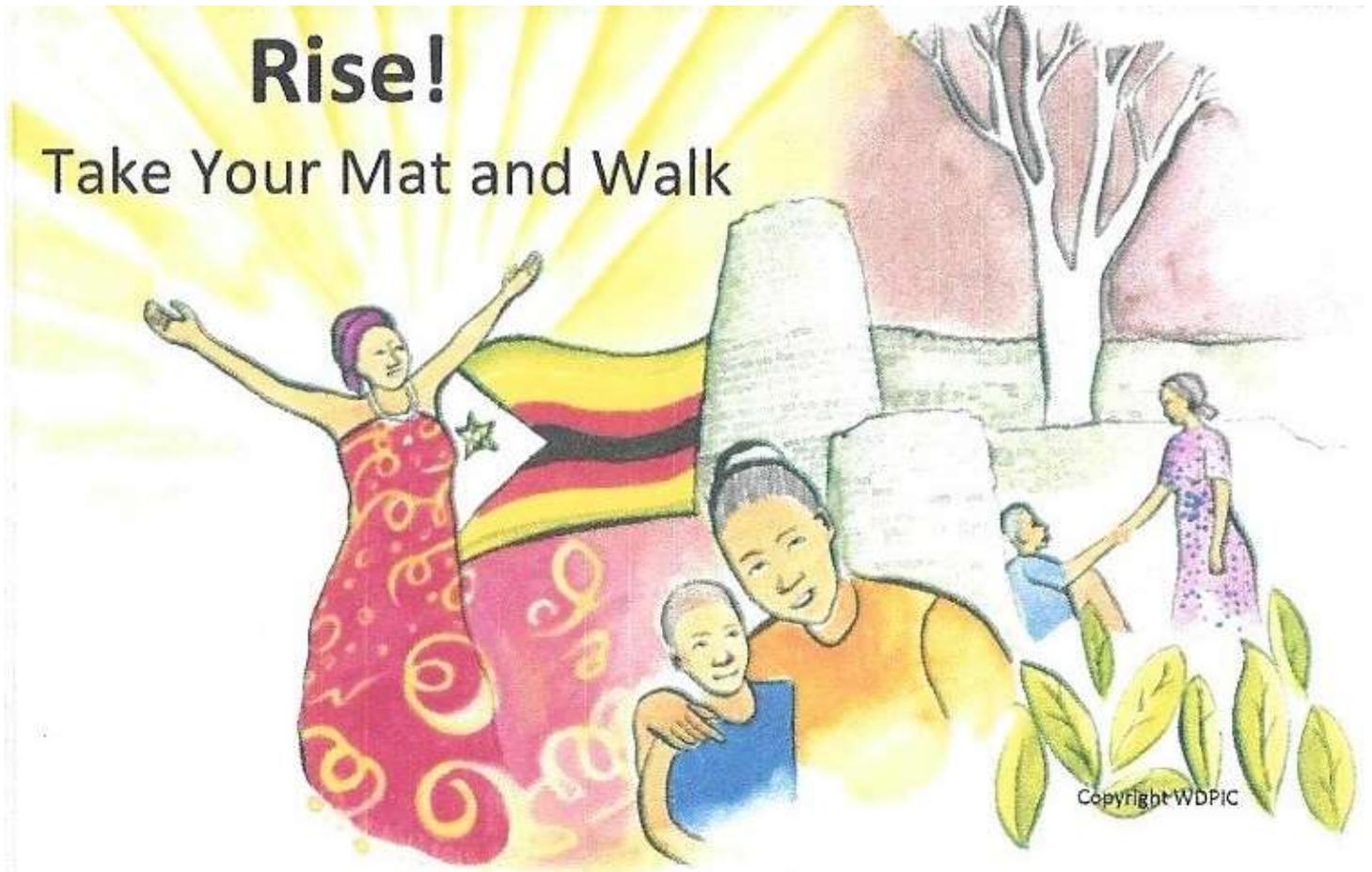


Saltcoats St Cuthbert's Church Magazine



World Day of Prayer from Zimbabwe (see inside)

March 2020

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From the Minister

Dear friends,

On 26th February we entered another important season of the Christian Liturgical Year – the period we call Lent, the forty days in which we remember both Jesus' time in the wilderness preparing for the start of His ministry, and the last few weeks of His ministry as He journeyed towards Jerusalem where He would endure crucifixion and death.

Throughout the centuries Christians have used these few weeks to focus on our own commitment to Jesus Christ, and on the important practices of self-discipline, prayer and repentance in preparation for the highest celebration of our Christian Faith – the resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter.

In more recent years, particularly in the Western Church, Lent has somehow become associated with such trivial things as 'giving up chocolate' for these few weeks. I confess that I have promoted such activities during my ministry, but I hope these superficial choices have only been pointers to something deeper which we should be experiencing during this season. Such vestigial sacrifices remind us of the challenge to respond in personal commitment and self-sacrifice to the deeper sacrifice of God, coming into our humanity in Jesus Christ, enduring the suffering brought upon Him by evil forces at work in the lives of men, leading Him to a painful and unjust death.

Living beyond Good Friday and Easter Sunday, we know that His terrible death was not the end of His ministry of grace towards us, for the worst that man can do cannot defeat the loving power of God. However, Lent asks us not to rush on blindly to the resurrection without pausing to reflect on the journey of suffering Jesus undertook through His love for us.

Why don't we make this Lent of 2020 a period when we stop ... and make time to think about the amazing self-sacrifice of Jesus Christ, whom we believe to be the Son of God?

Why don't we make this Lent of 2020 a period when we stop ... and make time to think about the commitment of our discipleship to Him?

Why don't we make this Lent of 2020 a period when we stop ... and make more time for personal prayer and Bible reading?

Why don't we make this Lent of 2020 a period when we stop ... and make more time to invite others to share in an experience of the love and mercy of God experienced in the life of Jesus and in the continuing work of His Spirit in our hearts and minds?

Why don't we make this Lent of 2020 a period when we stop ... and make time to be thankful in praise for the blessing of His forgiveness and renewal?

Individually and together, let us make good use of Lent 2020, praying for a growing sense of God in Christ walking beside us through the challenges of life.

With every blessing,

Sarah.

Congregational Register

Deaths “*In my Father’s house are many mansions...*”

January Mr. T. Scott, Caledonia Road, Saltcoats

Mrs. L. Causer, formerly Argyle Road, Saltcoats

Sad News

Almost two years ago the congregation learned that our previous minister Rev. Arthur Sherratt had passed away suddenly. Recently we were further saddened by the news that his wife Susan who had been actively involved during their ministry here had also passed away. We send our prayers and condolences to their daughters, Karen and Kim and their families at this sad time.

Stated Annual Meeting

The Stated Annual Meeting where the Annual accounts will be presented to the congregation for approval will be held immediately following the morning service on Sunday 29th March.

Tower Fund

We have been provisionally accepted for a substantial grant from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and plans are presently being drawn up to enable the tendering process to begin. The grant funding will only be in place when all this has had HES approval. If that can be achieved hopefully work will start later this year.

I would therefore appeal to anyone who has not contributed or wishes to contribute further to do so as soon as possible. Gift Aid tax is claimed on all contributions where there is a gift aid declaration in place thus adding a further 25% to your donation.

The tower bank account details are as follows:

Bank of Scotland: Sort Code: 80-22-60

Account number: 18600668

For anyone wishing to contribute this way.

On behalf of the Congregational Board I would like to express my own and the Board’s thanks for all those who have contributed. At 31 December 2020 the total raised was over £20,000.

Ann Turner

Thank you

Dear Friends

Thank you very much to everyone for all their good wishes, cards and help since my husband Tommy died. The whole family have appreciated the support of the minister and our friends in the church at this difficult time. A special thank you to those who prepared and served the funeral tea.

Helen Scott

Concert by City of Glasgow Chorus.

“Choral Classics – Something Old, Something New”

Following their highly successful performance here a few years ago The City of Glasgow Chorus returns to present another Concert on Sunday 19th April at 3pm.

The programme will include Handel’s Zadok the Priest, Parry’s I Was Glad, Vivaldi’s Gloria, Schubert’s Ave Maria and many more well-known favourites.

Tickets priced £5 will be available shortly from members of the fundraising committee or elders at the church door. Please spread the word and encourage friends and family to come and hear this talented choir. An event not to be missed.

Choir

March Anthems

1 st	Love of God.		Stuart Townend
8 th	O the life of the world.	Hymn 141	
15 th	O God you search me and you know me.		Hymn 97
22 nd	When in our music God is glorified.		Hymn 203
29 th	Come and find the quiet centre.	Hymn 716	

Rosemary Smith

Bridge Club

Following the recent closure of Dalgarven House Hotel, until further notice Dalry Bridge Club will be holding their meetings in our Creche Room. If anyone is interested in playing bridge on Monday evenings please speak to William Parker.

Guild



We had an enjoyable afternoon at South Beach House on 5th February when the children of Caledonia Primary School Choir entertained the residents with Poems and songs by Robert Burns.

On the 4th March Irene Howat we will hear about Life in a Scottish village, before, during and after the First World War and on 18th Isabel Garrett will speak about the History of Portencross Castle.

Senga McCallum

Christmas Gifts

A letter has been received from a Support Worker at the Health and Social Care Partnership expressing their appreciation for the donations of toys and parcels at Christmas. “Through your generosity we were able to supply over 140 families with gifts which they would not have had otherwise due to financial pressures at home.” These were over and above the boxes given to the Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal.

Thank you to all those who contributed.



Following an exemplary report after a routine environmental inspection at the end of January, the café, despite storm Ciara, opened on its usual second Wednesday slot in February. On such a wild day patrons could have been forgiven for sheltering at home but remarkably our regulars attended in their usual numbers demonstrating how they value this asset in the life of our church. Prior to a “thank you” lunch the volunteers were given a simple but effective presentation on cross contamination highlighting the need for vigilance in hygiene when preparing and serving food.

Come along on our next dates - 11th March or on 25th March when Trading Standards and the Police will be giving a talk.

Introduce a friend. You can always follow us on Facebook

Angela Beattie

South Beach House Friends Group.



At the recent meeting of the Friends our best wishes were given to Margaret Cassidy, Manager who is retiring at end of the month after serving South Beach for 45 years in various positions. She will be greatly missed by everyone. Maureen Grier the present Deputy will take over as Manager. We wish her well in her new post.

The Manager's report shows a very healthy financial position partly due to some sizeable bequests and donations which are gratefully received. The money is being well spent for the benefit of the Residents. A generous donation of garden furniture was received from one of our families. The residents will enjoy using this when the better weather comes. Our gardens are well maintained and the residents enjoy activities outside or just sitting watching whatever is going on. The main purchase will be a 9-seater minibus. This will enable the residents to go further afield and maybe visit places they once enjoyed years ago. Life in South Beach is not dull. The 2 Activity Co-ordinators work hard with many fun activities every day. As well as fun the residents are stimulated and kept mobile and socialise. Visits from nursery and school children are much enjoyed, by old and young.

The local Guilds meet once a month and have varied programmes. This is a chance for residents to meet old friends.

Regular maintenance and refreshing work is being carried out to keep South Beach House a good, comfortable and happy home for our residents.

Your continued prayers and support for the staff and residents is much appreciated, also the work of CrossReach in Scotland.

Evelyn Slater. South Beach Friends Group

Plant Sale



The plant sale this year will be on Saturday 16th May. Details of plants available will be in the April magazine.

Ann Turner

World Day of Prayer (Friday 6th March at 2pm)

The colourful image on the magazine cover was painted by Nonhlanhla (Nonny) Mathe, a Zimbabwean born artist who lives in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. She is inspired by people's lives, the way they relate to each other and the way they view things.

The painting portrays people's lives in society, where the top part from right to left represents a transition from a dark difficult past as a nation to a more prosperous and promising future and the bottom composition is more a display of love, healing and reconciliation as inspired by the story of John 5: 2-9. Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk.

Every year, on the first Friday of March, Christians around the world bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year. The material is produced by lay women of a specific country and encourages us to better understand their situation and the challenges they face. Through preparation and participation in the worship service, women worldwide learn how their sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the biblical passages in their context. They learn of the concerns and needs of those women and to empathize and feel in solidarity with them. The 2020 material was produced by women of Zimbabwe.

This year, in Saltcoats, St Cuthbert's is hosting the service. There will be a short presentation describing a little of the history and current situation in Zimbabwe then there will be a joyful celebration in song, prayer and scripture led by Christian women from across all the denominations in our town.

YOU ARE INVITED

Everyone is invited and encouraged to come.....Bring a friend or neighbour!

Please dress in the brightest colours you have in your wardrobe.

Tea and biscuits will be available after the service.

Bea Nicholson

Sunday School

As the weeks are passing, we are now starting to think about Easter Handwork and once again we are calling on the services of Ray Nicholson. He will be joining us during March to work with the children and members of the Youth Group.

A big thank you for all the pennies you have been collecting, the total now stands at £165.

Sunday School Teachers

Flower Rota

There are dates available for flower donations in May, August, September, November and December.

Please contact Annita or Adele if you are interested.

Annita Gillespie and Adele Kerr: Flower convenors

Men's Club

In an effort to increase attendance our meetings will now be held on Thursday evenings.

On Thursday 27th February at 7pm Anne Gardiner will be giving a talk on her visit to Porta Rica.

We look forward to welcoming everyone. They need not be a member of the congregation. Please come along.

Tom Sommerville

Weekly Calendar

Sundays:	10.45 a.m. -	Morning Service, Sunday School and Youth Group
Mondays:	2.00 p.m. -	Afternoon Club for bridge play & instruction, crafts, etc
	7.00 p.m. -	Bridge Club
	7.30 p.m. -	Country Dancing (social dancing class)
Tuesdays:	10.00am. -	Zumba Gold
Wednesdays:	10.00 a.m. -	Walking Group
	11.30 a.m. -	Community Cafe (2 nd & 4 th Wednesdays)
	2.00 p.m. -	The Guild (1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays)
Thursdays:	9.30 a.m. -	Mother and Toddler Group
	7.00 p.m. -	Men's Club (fortnightly)
Fridays:	6.30 p.m. -	Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys & Junior Section
	8.00 p.m. -	Boys' Brigade Senior Section

Diary Dates at a Glance

Guild	Wednesday 4 th March.
Community Café	Wednesday 11 th March
Guild	Wednesday 18 th March
Community Café	Wednesday 25 th March
Choral Concert	Sunday 19 th April
Plant Sale	Saturday 16 th May