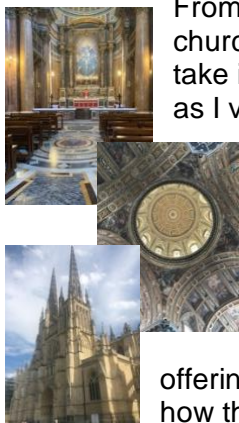


LOGIE & ST. JOHN'S (CROSS) PARISH CHURCH
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER: 24th April 2022



WEEKLY SUNDAY SERVICE at 11am
MINISTER: REV. G. MACLAUGHLAN



From a very early age I remember that on family holidays we always made a point of visiting churches and cathedrals, sometimes to join in the worship but at other times just to visit and take in the splendour of the building. Growing up all of my family holidays were in Britain but as I ventured further afield I have continued to visit the sanctuary of the local church and love the stillness and feeling of calm that I feel in entering. Although maybe the day our youngest daughter began to sing 'Happy Birthday' on seeing prayer candles lit was less calm! (For clarification she was only three at the time.) It has been our experience that in Europe most churches are open to the public throughout the day and I often reflect on the fact that for six days of the week our church sanctuary is usually closed. I'm not saying I would necessarily visit during the day but there are others who may. So, it was good to discuss at the session meeting this week the notion of opening the vestry and offering it to hall users as a quiet space for reflection if required and it'll be interesting to see how the offer is received.

And another development this week is that the repairs to the stonework around the front door are complete and so on Sunday we can once again enter the church by Blackness Avenue.



SUNDAY SERVICE

In line with changes to coronavirus mitigations, face coverings are no longer compulsory in places of worship however we are suggesting that you still wear your mask coming in to church and whilst you are able to remove it once seated. We continue to use every second pew and have identified one side of church (the pulpit side) for those who would prefer to continue to wear a face covering throughout. We hope these measures will allow everyone to feel safe at LSJC.

Immediately following the service on Sunday we will hold our Annual Stated Meeting. This is a time to inform the congregation of the work and activities enjoyed in the last year as well as giving the opportunity to hear about our financial situation. We encourage members to stay and to celebrate the work of the church at this meeting. The 2021 accounts are now available, if you would like a paper copy, please contact treasurer@logies.org, speak to Glyn Bengough or contact him via the Church Office 01382 668514

Coffee, tea and biscuits will be offered to all in the Hall following the ASM. Please go through and join with others.

GIFT AID RECORDS

It is some time since our Gift Aid register was checked and so in the weeks following the ASM, if you are a giver who has agreed to us collecting Gift Aid you will receive a copy of your declaration to be checked and updated (unless you are a 'new giver' and your declaration has been signed within the last 12 months).

FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Throughout the Bible Jesus is referred to by many different names. In this jumble of letters there are eight different names for Him. The first is highlighted. Can you find seven more?

CSHARMIS**T**VI OSSUIRTEAHCREHDEREI
EMEMSHANEUELPCORUHENSREDLLOR

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The Kirk Session set up 3 working groups this year. They have been working hard to develop new areas of work.

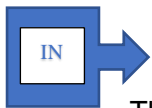


The 'up group' have a focus on connecting with God and how to develop our spiritual growth as a church. They have a plan for a new opportunity for us to connect and reflect.

Over the last two years we have been blessed by the Tuesday evening 'Connect with the Bible' Zoom group. We want to thank everyone who has been part of this. However, we want to return to in-person groups meeting through the week as we look to deepen our sense of community and faith.

These groups will take the format of 20 minutes of fellowship, 20 minutes of considering a passage from the Bible and 20 minutes where there will be a prayerful activity (not praying aloud but perhaps writing a prayer with others about a theme). The plan is that this will be offered on a Tuesday evening at 7:30pm in the church building, although a different time may be available if people would prefer a morning or afternoon throughout May and June.

To mark the end of the Zoom Connect with the Bible and to discover a little more about the new groups please come along to the manse on Tuesday 26th April at 7:30pm for coffee, tea and cake.



As the 'in group' looks at developing a strategy for pastoral care for the congregation we have decided to pilot a Listening Group for people who have experienced a bereavement.

The pain of bereavement and loss never leaves, we simply learn to live with a loved ones absence. The scar may fade, however the scar is still there. A mum or dad, a spouse or partner, a son or daughter, a friend, someone who made a difference to our lives! Whatever the relationship, sometimes we need space to talk, to talk about the person, to share our memories, to tell our stories; to share how we continue to live with the reality of their death; to be honest about how much we miss them and how we are coping or perhaps not coping. If you have experienced a bereavement and would like a safe space to talk openly with others, then please join our *Spaces For Listening Bereavement Group*. This will take place once a month on a Monday at 2pm- 3:30pm and will meet in the Vestry of the church. The dates are Monday 2nd May; Monday 6th June; Monday 4th July. You are welcome to come to each of these sessions if you want to. It will have the following structure-

A time of sharing: three rounds of questions asked and each person will have up-to 3 minutes to share their response.

- (1) Tell us about the person who you are here to remember.
- (2) Share with us what you find helpful and difficult as you continue to travel through your grief.
- (3) Is there anything from our time together that you have found insightful or helpful as to think about the journey ahead?

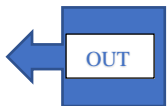
As we share others will listen. We will not be trying to 'fix' you or offer answers...this will be a time when your story will be heard.

A time of quiet reflection: There will be a time of quiet. This will be a time for you to sit with your thoughts and feelings in the presence of God and with others.

A time of friendship: If you want to stay for a cup of coffee or tea then this will be available.

If you live with the reality of loss, no matter how long ago the bereavement happened, then you are welcome to join us.

If you would like to discuss a bereavement on a one to one basis please do call Grant directly on 07507 710871.



The 'out group' are delighted that with other partners in the community we will be running a Community Hub, initially for the month of June. It will be open Monday morning 9am- 12noon, Wednesday evening 7:30pm-10:30pm and Thursday afternoon 1pm-3pm. We hope this will

be a place where people will be able to come and meet other people, enjoy the company of others and where people can find support if they need it.

We are looking for volunteers to help staff this. If this is something you would be interested in helping with please email Grant at GMacLaughlan@churchofscotland.org.uk or call him on 07507 710871.

PASTORAL CARE

If you, or anyone you know, needs pastoral care then please contact Grant by mobile: 07507710871 or by email: GMacLaughlan@churchofscotland.org.uk

Sometimes, just talking to someone else can be a comfort. Grant is more than happy to listen and chat if that would help.