

Campsie Parish Church

# Lent Newsletter



*February*

*March*

*April*

**2019**



*from*

**Rev. Dr. Jane Denniston**

Dear Friends,

It seems a long time since I last wrote a pastoral letter for the Newsletter and a lot of water has passed under the bridge since then. Sadly, we are still no clearer on the way forward as, despite a great deal of effort by a great many people, including David and myself, no solution to our housing problem has yet been found.

By the time you read this I will have returned to work, albeit on a phased return. As agreed by the Ministries Council and my GP, during February and March I will gradually increase the number of days in each week that I am working, and gradually increase the number of days I am in the parish. I will also gradually increase my involvement in worship. I plan to take a Sunday off at the beginning of April, and also the usual post Easter Sunday off. By this time I am hopeful that working patterns will have returned to normal.

During this time, and in the absence of a permanent solution to our housing problem, I will be exercising my ministry at some distance from Lennoxton which will inevitably compromise my availability. However, I will do my best to be available as much as possible. The details of my availability will be published in the weekly Order of Service, and also on the website so that you know where and when to contact me.

It has been a hard few months. Coming to terms with the awfulness of our predicament has been difficult. Leaving the manse, which was our

home, felt like another bereavement in a year of bereavements. Searching for a new home which would enable me to return to my ministry among you has taken, not only a great deal of energy, but also months of our time as we viewed possible houses, attended meetings, and generally looked for possible solutions. That it has thus far come to naught is a great disappointment.

However, in all the stresses and strains of the past few months, in all the trials, difficulties and deep disappointments, one thing has shone out like a beacon in a dark place; the love of God shown in the support, care, and understanding of friends and family, including the members of this congregation. This has been our lifeline in these dark days as the path ahead is hidden from us, the one thing that made the pain of our situation bearable.

I thank you sincerely for your patience and understanding, and I ask you to continue to exercise that patience and understanding for a little longer; to hold us in prayers and give us your support as we continue to look for a way forward.

We believe that, in the goodness and love of God, our strength and purpose will be renewed.

*Your friend*

*Jane*





**Pastoral letter**  
*from*  
**Rev. Morris M.  
Dutch**

Dear friends,

As I sit in front of the computer in my attic study to write this wee message to you, I am again totally amazed by the speed of time as today is Saturday 26 January 2019. **2019, 2019, 2019!!!!!!**.

My goodness!!!!!! Don't know about you, but I feel that the speed time passes is quite scary. Seems only five minutes ago (1 November 2018) that I became your Locum Minister. Can you remember the Millennium again? Just a short memory back in time. They say time speeds up for folks in three ways, i.e. when you get older, when you are very busy, and lastly, when life is good and you are having a lot of fun and enjoyment. I suppose all three would apply to me in one way or the other. The last three months for Maggie and me, as members of the Campsie Church Family, have been very special and enjoyable as we have got to know many of you in a very special way. Thank you so much for that!

Looking back over my three months of Church Services, November and December were principally about Advent and Christmas, yet turning the corner into the New Year 2019, I was drawn in my prayers to focus my sermons beginning with Vision and also later to tackle some of the things we carry as baggage in our lives that hold us back from "Living the abundant life" that our Lord desires for each of us, namely: facing the giants before us (1 Sam. 17), worry (Matt 6: 24 - 34), and rejection (Luke 4: 16 - 30).

If you are like me, life's journey can be pretty tough at times, and it is no more than in such as these moments that we find how gracious and merciful is our God who is always there to help and support us when we call upon Him to help. David said to Goliath, "You are coming against me

with sword, spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the Israelite armies, which you have defied.” Paul the apostle passed on to the young church in Philippi fundamental and invaluable spiritual advice regards WORRY (Phil 4:6 -7) when he instructs them to “take everything to the Lord in Prayer”, which brings to mind the great hymn: ‘What a friend we have in Jesus.’ Friends, so simple but so true! Being a Christian is NOT rocket science, it is about walking in personal faith and obedience close to our Lord seeking His supernatural

Fatherly intervention in our lives. It’s about RELATIONSHIP!!!! What a privilege to be called Christian!!!

My dear friends, may we face 2019 with confidence and look to our God to enable us to be victorious disciples for the glory of Jesus our Lord. Whatever God has for you, press on for it! Don’t let the ‘little foxes steal your blessing’.

Wherever the Lord takes us this year, may we agree to pray for each other and to look forward to much blessing!

*Your friend and Locum Minister.*

*Morris*

Rev. Morris M. Dutch

***Rev. Morris sporting the  
Guild Tartan tie.***

*Presented by Chrissie Collins  
on behalf of the Guild.*



# Upcoming Services



## FEBRUARY

<b>3rd February</b>	<b>11.00am Worship</b>	<i>Rev. Morris Dutch</i> <i>Rev. Dr. Jane Denniston</i>
<b>10th February</b>	<b>11.00am Worship</b>	<i>Rev. Dr. Jane Denniston</i> <i>Rev. Morris Dutch</i>
<b>17th February</b>	<b>11.00am Worship</b>	<i>George Kelly</i> <i>Rev. Dr. Jane Denniston</i>
<b>24th February</b>	<b>11.00am Worship</b>	<i>Rev. Dr. Jane Denniston</i> <i>Margaret Tindall</i>

## MARCH

<b>3rd March</b>	<b>11.00am Worship</b>	<i>Rev. Dr. Jane Denniston</i>
<b>10th March</b>	<b>11.00am Worship</b>	<i>Rev. Dr. Jane Denniston</i>
<b>17th March</b>	<b>11.00am Worship</b>	<i>Rev. Dr. Jane Denniston</i>
<b>24th March</b>	<b>11.00am Worship</b>	<i>Rev. Dr. Jane Denniston</i>
<b>31st March</b>	<b>11.00am Worship</b>	<i>Rev. Dr. Jane Denniston</i>

Evening services are normally held at **6.30pm** on the second Sunday of the Month.

## *Letter from Rev. David Denniston*



As you are all aware, these last several months have not been easy ones for the Denniston family. We have all suffered a great deal of stress, and – as you know only too well – both Jane and I have been off work for around 6 months. So it is in many ways a relief for us to be returning to work, bit by bit, over the coming weeks. Jane has been especially eager to get back to ministering amongst you all.

That said, I think it is also probably the case that the impact of all that happened last year has had a greater effect on Jane than on the rest of the family. The nature of the unfortunate events of some months ago and the way they played out in the community of Lennoxton will have inevitably affected how a parish minister relates to her parish. When you add to that the fact that one of the several bereavements we experienced last year was the untimely death of Jane's brother, then you may understand some of the toll this has taken on Jane.

But I know too that the sense of support, love, understanding and prayer with which we have all been surrounded, and which you as a congregation have so fully shown us, has been one of the reasons Jane has been so eager to be back amongst you. I must say that I have hugely appreciated the extent of that support and am deeply grateful.

To be honest, we still have a journey to travel, and there are several things still to be resolved. Much of the way ahead remains uncertain and may continue to do so for a wee while yet. Meanwhile, we all remain deeply grateful for your support.

As Jane begins her phased return to work through February and March, I plan to try and be at Sunday services at Campsie as much as possible. Jane may even let me take part in one or two! So I look forward to seeing you on Sundays and being with you all again.

Thanks once more for the support and love you have shown to us, and not least to Jane, through this difficult time, which has not been easy for you either.

It is much appreciated.

*David Denniston*



*We give  
thanks for  
answered  
prayers.*

**If you personally have a particular need or concern that you would like your fellow 'pray-ers' to pray about...**

*Please just let me know.*

*In Christian Love,*

Joan Thomson

Mobile: 07719 553829

Email: [jjthomson62@btinternet.com](mailto:jjthomson62@btinternet.com)



## *Some reflections from Brian Marshall....*

Faith is fine but you cannot argue with Logic and Pride before a fall

I have often voiced the opinion that although it's fine to pray and talk to God but you shouldn't pray to get things, because there is no logical reason for doing so. If you want something then you should work to get it. I have always been proud of my own abilities.



So when I went to Peru in July 2012 although I was extremely grateful for all the help and support I received from the good people of Campsie Parish Church, but I would be looking after myself thank you very much, and pray for the pilot & bus driver not me.

When I arrived in Lima; I noticed the change in the city, it seemed brighter and more foreigner friendly. After 18 hrs of flying, we all enjoyed our stay in the hotel before leaving on public transport for our 12 hr bus journey up into the mountains. If possible, Lima traffic seemed worse than ever and the road up through the Andes more frightening than before. A very weary work party arrived at Kusi in Yungay 8600 ft. up in the Andes.

It was delightful to see so many familiar faces and because I wore my kilt, everyone recognised me. 2 of the boys I had first met in 2006 had just passed their entrance exams to become police officers, another was training to become a chef.



This was their final week at the home, and a big party was planned. What I did notice was at the school there was more girls and special needs boys in attendance.

The Latin Americans attitude to any form of disability is not very pleasant, but I suppose not that long ago we had the same attitude here.

We were introduced to and told a harrowing story of a 12-year-old girl who had a child to her stepfather and her little deformed brother who wasn't allowed to go to school because it brought shame on the family honour. When I heard this, I was furious. I offered to go round to their house and "have words" with the stepfather. The group wisely decided to put the matter in the hands of GOD by means of prayer.

The next day the teacher and I did go to the man's door and the man allowed the boy to go to school as long as I took him. This worked out great for me as I was excused from work, and spent a couple of days with the boy until he settled into school.

Because I threatened to assault the poor man, and because I went swimming in the glacial lake; I was given the nickname of Big Brian the toughest (daftest) man in Scotland

After 11 days in Kusi, we travelled down to work in the new boy's home in Ica. On the Sunday before we came home, we went for a trip out into the high desert where we were offered a chance to go sand boarding; which everyone wisely declined. The guide made "chicken" noises, so step forward the toughest, definitely daftest man in Scotland whose pride had been offended. I thought what could possibly go wrong I would be lying down on it so I was only 2 inches off the ground. Multiple fractures and 3 weeks later I regained consciousness and found out just what could go wrong. I have no recollection of being in hospital or remember what happened. I was fortunate that the surgeon who cared for me contacted my wife and kept her posted on my injuries. She was very grateful for their support. The accident happened on Sunday the 15/07/12, and my wife Helen pointed out how lucky I was to be alive. She also said that in Campsie Parish Church my name was on the prayer sheet and that she had been very worried and had prayed for my safe return home. I expressed the opinion that the prayers did not work, but Helen said that all she prayed for was for me to come home. She had not prayed for me not to do something stupid, so it was me who had done something daft, as usual, but God had answered her prayers by getting me home safely. You just cannot argue with her logic.

One final vote of thanks should again go to the good people of Campsie Parish

Church who prayed for me. In the future I won't be so dismissive of the power of prayer.

*Brian Marshall*



The first Sunday in the month is the day we bring groceries that I then take to the Lodging House Mission, which is in East Campbell Street in Glasgow.

All donations are gratefully received whether goods or monetary. I always receive a letter of thanks and am told that without our donations, and that from other Churches the LHM would not be able to function, and help the homeless and the helpless.

During the winter months, when the night shelter is open to give a place to those folk where they can sleep in safety off the streets, they need more support as they are feeding and sheltering more people than ever. Please keep those who volunteer as well as the users of the service in your hearts and prayers.

***I intend to stop issuing a paper reminder each month but there will be a reminder in the news sheet, and I will mention it at news time. Hopefully this will be sufficient for folk to remember as we have been contributing for years.***

However, if you do not remember on the first Sunday in the month but remember another week, please bring your contribution when you remember, and I will keep it until the appropriate week.

If you have any questions about the Lodging House Mission please ask, and I will try to answer your queries.

*Catrina Cameron*

## Church Flowers



***Every Sunday our Church is adorned with flowers***

After the service the flowers are taken to those who are ill, unable to join us on a Sunday morning, lonely, bereaved or finding life difficult for a variety of reasons. This is a way of letting folk know that they are not forgotten, that we think of them, and they are part of our Church family.

The flowers are donated by Church members, those who attend our Church and are part of our family, and those who cannot attend but want to contribute to our worship. Although many who contribute do so on or near a date to remember an anniversary. The main reason for the flowers in our Church, is to add to the Worship and Glory of God.

We have a team of ladies who arrange the flowers on a rota basis, but we would be delighted to welcome anyone who is interested in joining us.

We would teach anyone about flower arranging, if you would like to try.

Anyone (ladies or gentlemen) who would like donate flowers or arrange them please speak to me at Church or phone me

*Catrina Cameron*

**01360 312235 or 07789 813615**

## *Coming Home*



When you cross the borders of the desert and head for home  
You do not want to turn back  
What you are heading for is a place of belonging  
A place where you can lay your body down  
Everything inside you is running  
You have run away often  
But this time you are running for home  
You will still be yourself  
Still be restless sometimes and afraid  
But what beckons you now are the bonds of loving  
And when all is said and done  
(And sometimes there is too much saying and too little doing)  
Living where your life belongs is coming home  
Welcome to the family

*Ruth Burgess, Iona Community*

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*This poem resonates with me in my journey back to Scotland after being away for 42 years..... Precious coming home, to place of belonging.*

*Muriel Connell*

# DATE TO DIARISE.....

16 FEBRUARY 2019



**Rainbow Cafe**  
*Reaching Out  
in our Community*

**SATURDAY  
16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

*Campsie Parish Church*

**Lunches**  
**12 - 2pm**  
*Home Baking*

**In aid of**



**RONALD McDONALD  
HOUSE CHARITIES**

# Tree of Life

Our life would be devoid of colour if there were no trees. They soften our view with their greenery and gently make our afternoon cool with their shade. Their roots go deep and their fruit sustains us.



Some move graciously with the caressing of a breeze, others stand up proud and strong, unwilling to bend...

The seasons come and go and the trees shed their leaves and become bare and distraught in appearance, just like the seasons of our lives.

Each of the four seasons is a growing season for the heart. If you sink your roots deeply into the soil of each season's truth, it can become your mentor.

What can we learn from nature?

We have to prune back the dead branches to enable new growth to come, the bud appears and new life flourishes again.

At the beginning of a new season, let the old branches go. The old thoughts, habits. Cut back to enable new growth to happen within you.

Let the lemons on your tree become Lemonade

***You were meant to live an abundant life. Live it!!***



Thank you to all who have contributed to this Newsletter. This is your voice, so please continue to forward interesting articles which can be shared with the community.

**Muriel Connell**

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