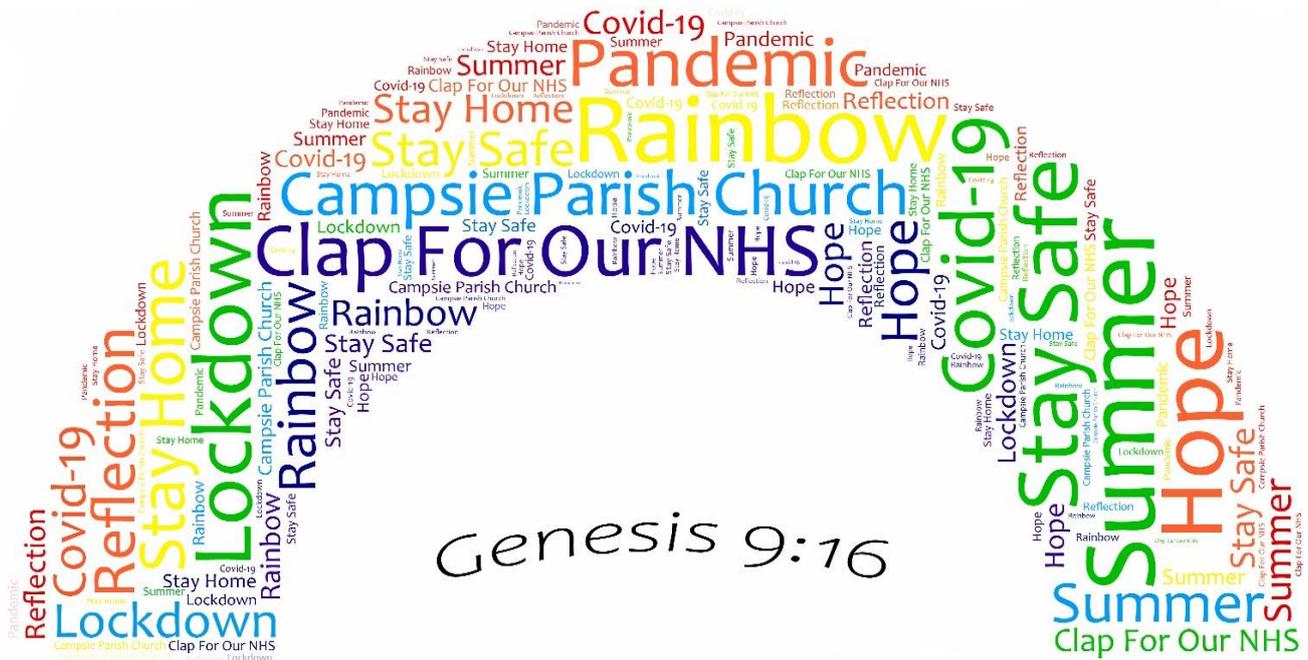


Campsie Parish Church Summer Newsletter

Aug 2020



Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.

Dear Friends,

As I write this, we are in Phase 3 of lockdown. Back at the end of March when we first went into lockdown, I don't think any of us truly believed that it would go on for so long or that it would be as difficult to emerge at the far side. Going into lockdown was easy – everything just stopped. Coming out of lockdown is a difficult and nuanced process, juggling many different balls: loneliness and isolation, separation from friends and family, the need to work and earn a living, the necessary re-generation of the economy, the need to continue to be vigilant, to stay safe, to keep well. By the time you read this you should have had my email outlining the decision regarding reopening the church building made by the Kirk Session on 21 July, and a brief explanation of the reasons for this decision. Elsewhere in this magazine there is a fuller explanation of the issues surrounding this reopening which may give you a better idea of why the decision was taken.

I know that many of you have been looking forward to getting back to 'church'. However, church has not closed, we are still in contact with one another, we still worship together, we care for one another, and we still pray with and for one another. The body of Christ is alive and well in Campsie. Ironically, being shut in within the four walls of our own homes, we have truly become a Church Without Walls.



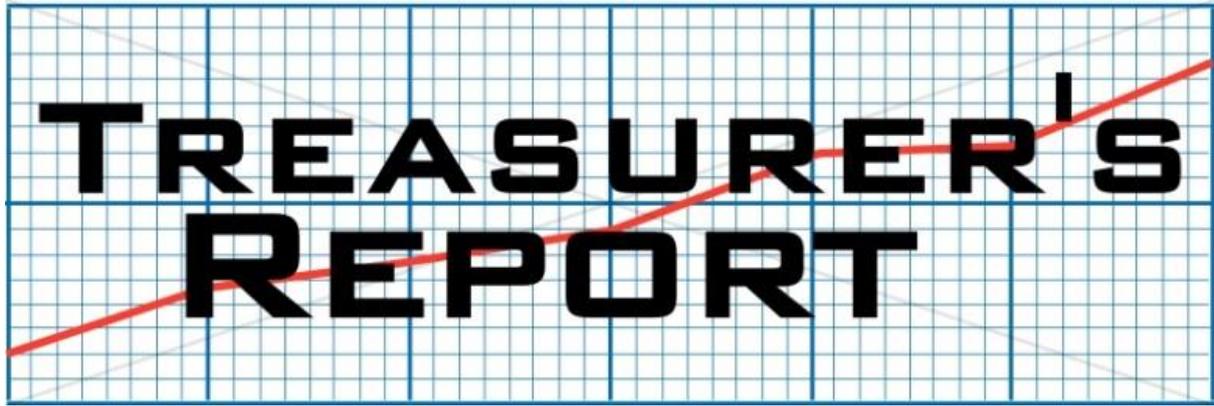
This period of lockdown has also been a period of unprecedented creativity in the life of the church. That is true of the church nationally, but also of our wee congregation in Campsie. I am not the only one who is discovering and learning new skills; many of the people who take part in worship Sunday by Sunday, reading the Bible, praying, recording music for our hymns, and offering reflections when I am on holiday, would never have imagined six months ago that they might be called upon to do something like this yet they have risen to the challenge magnificently.

And so, I think we can see that there have been blessings in this time. Technology itself has been a blessing, enabling us to continue to worship and stay in touch, and even see one another's faces as we join together on Zoom for tea and coffee after worship on Sundays. There have been blessings in the new skills that we have been developing, and the wonderful way we as a congregation have risen to the challenge.

There are more challenging times ahead as we consider what it means to reopen the building and recommence worship there. But this is also an opportunity to be even more creative, to really think outside the box, and find new ways to worship God, in spite of all the restrictions, and in our worship reach even more effectively those out without walls.

I pray that you will all continue to stay safe and that we will soon be able to meet together again.

Your friend and minister,



TREASURER'S REPORT

Your treasurer has been hard at work for the past few months, ensuring our Church finances remain as sound as possible, and that bills are paid.

I'd like to thank everyone who has adapted to our new circumstances by either continuing with their envelope donations or transferring directly to our bank account.

The most time-consuming matter we have been dealing with is changing our bank accounts from Royal Bank of Scotland to Clydesdale Bank. We started the process in February and since then it has been like running through treacle! However, we are now making good progress and we should be clear of RBS soon.

Letting folk know of the change has largely been by email. We appreciate many of you don't use email, so we have not managed to contact everyone as yet; rest assured we will get there eventually. In the meantime if there is anyone on email who is not aware we've changed our bank and would like our new details, please contact us at : campsietreasurer@gmail.com. We'll provide the information on request.

In other news, we have now sold the Manse at Redhills View. This was due to have completed at the beginning of April but for obvious reasons it didn't go ahead at that time.

Again, we are grateful for the support shown during these strange times. Hopefully things will soon change for the better.

Andy Waugh



St Machan's Community Foodbank, Lennoxtown

Lennoxtown community foodbank based in St Machan's Chapel Hall was started due to Covid 19 and Lennoxtown Free Church, where the East Dunbartonshire Foodbank was normally held, having to close its doors for the time being. It runs on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings between 11.00 and 12.00 for clients. Doors open at 10.30 for donations.

The foodbank is run by volunteers, on a Monday, by St Machans parishioners, Wednesday by Campsie Parish Church parishioners and on a Friday, St Machans parishioners.

People have been so kind with donations, considering everything that is going on at the moment and it's been a very humbling experience. Campsie Football Club also volunteered their help and contributed financially towards the foodbank. We also had a lady make face masks and only ask for a donation for making them and then she donated this to the foodbank.

During the time it's been running at St Machans we have grown to build relationships with some of the clients and it's been nice to hear them tell us their stories about how the foodbank has helped them during this difficult time.

One mum told us that she has started baking with her daughters because she got flour at the Foodbank. She had never done this before and the girls love it. Another one told us that her kids have now got a wider variety of foods they like because of what they've received from the foodbank, as it wouldn't normally be food that they would buy from the shops.

The community foodbank is open for anyone who needs help and we also have some school clothes that have been donated if they can be of use to anyone. Currently we are short of washing powder, washing up liquid, cleaning products, pot noodles, kids cereal, diluting juice, fruit juice and ladies toiletries, also condiments such as salt, pepper, mayo, tomato and brown sauce.

Pamela Dickson

***** Please note that the Foodbank will be operating from the Free Church from Friday 21st August, 11am – 1pm.**



We are still supporting the LHM during this difficult time.

Although it is not yet possible for the LHM to open for those in need of meals and support the volunteers are taking food and support to their clients. Most of the homeless have been placed in accommodation but not all of it is permanent. Some folk are in hotels where only breakfast is supplied. However, some hotels have allowed microwave ovens to be installed to allow their temporary residents to heat food. The LHM along with other missions in the city have donated money to the Simon Community and they have organised the purchase and installation of these microwaves.

As a result of the present situation it would be useful if the donations we continue to give could take account of what folk might need and be able to manage in these difficult times.

A few suggestions

Cup of Soup/ Pot noodles Or Rice Pots. Tea / Coffee. Anything that only requires the addition of hot water.

Small tins of meat or fish that can be eaten cold.

Tins of vegetables that can be heated or eaten cold.

Tins of fruit/evaporated milk

Small bottles of juice or water.

Diluting juice

Packets of biscuits or crisps.

Toiletries for men and women.

I am sure you will have many suitable ideas if your own.

Money donations are also very welcome.

There is a voucher scheme with supermarkets and local businesses that allow those who are still homeless to access a hot meal.

I will continue to be at the Church on the last Friday of each month with my car boot open from 12.00 - 12.30 to collect donations.

Many thanks to those of you who continue to donate for the LHM.

The LHM greatly appreciate our support and prayers which they always acknowledge.

If anyone has any questions please get in touch.

Catrina Cameron

01360 312235

07789 813615

UPCOMING SERVICES

Aug 2020 – Oct 2020

In spite of lockdown, and the challenges of online worship, we have managed to maintain much of our normal pattern of services. This will continue as we go forward. In particular, online worship will continue for quite some time as many of our members are in a vulnerable category and even if we were to open the building, they would not feel comfortable returning to worship just yet. The following schedule is tentative as it does not take into account, at the moment, any possibility of worship taking place in the building, however, it will be updated as and when necessary. All services are available both on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Campsie.Parish.Church/>) and on our website (<http://www.campsie.org.uk/>). However, it should be noted that services are available from the time stated but remain available afterwards and can be viewed at any time.

August	Event
30 th	10:30am – JAM Online 10:45am – Worship Online (followed by a short communion via Zoom) 12pm – Zoom Tea and Coffee
September	
5 th	9am – Monthly Prayer Meeting via Zoom
6 th	10:30am – JAM Online 10:45am – Worship Online 12pm – Zoom Tea and Coffee
13 th	10:30am – JAM Online 10:45am – Worship Online 12pm – Zoom Tea and Coffee
20 th	10:30am – JAM Online 11am – Worship Online 12pm – Zoom Tea and Coffee
27 th	10:30am – JAM Online 11am – Worship Online (followed by a short Communion via Zoom) 12pm – Zoom Tea and Coffee

October	
3 rd	9am – Monthly Prayer Meeting via Zoom
4 th	10:30am – JAM Online 11am – Worship Online including Communion 12pm – Zoom Tea and Coffee
11 th	10:30am – JAM Online 11am – Worship Online 12pm – Zoom Tea and Coffee
18 th	10:30am – JAM Online 11am – Worship Online 12pm – Zoom Tea and Coffee
25 th	10:30am – JAM Online 11am – Worship Online, Harvest Thanksgiving service with offerings for the Lodging House Mission (followed by a short Communion via Zoom) 12pm – Zoom Tea and Coffee

The details to join Zoom tea and coffee are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87149545876?pwd=dE00dWQ5YjJDUlhXb2Z1NkVINjVzQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 4954 5876

Passcode: 4ZpJ0e

These details are valid for every instance.

The details to join the monthly prayer meeting are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81401208342?pwd=bzBnK093RFgvL0Vyd1lrV2M2cTZrdz09>

Meeting ID: 814 0120 8342

Passcode: 8yys2k

These details are valid for every instance.

The details to join the after-service Communion are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89461033033?pwd=MTZEL0VRTUVJL2V1UW9Gc1B0bTBKZz09>

Meeting ID: 894 6103 3033

Passcode: KmKn4r

These details are valid for every instance.

In addition, there are the Campsie Clergy Reflections which we aim to have going live from 12 noon, Monday to Friday, although sometimes there are technical hitches! These also are available to view at any point.

During lockdown, as I said in my pastoral letter, many of us have been discovering new skills and talents. If you would like to join the team of readers, or those leading the intercessory prayers, please let me know. All you need is a smart phone!

The Church and Coronavirus



It scarcely seems possible that four months have passed since lockdown, in some ways it feels like a much longer time, yet it was at the end of March that the government announced that we should, “Stay Home, Save Lives”. Even now, with lockdown easing, the world we inhabited it before the end of March seems a very different place from the world we inhabit now. And in this new world, amongst all the things we miss, socialising with family and friends, popping out to the shops, going about our daily lives as we have become used to them, we miss going to church. We miss gathering together in our lovely sanctuary, singing hymns to God in the company of our friends, praising and praying and hearing God’s word face-to-face with one another. When lockdown was first announced I think many of us naïvely imagined that we would stay home for twelve weeks and then the virus would be contained, and life could go back to normal. Instead, we find that life will take a very long time to go back to normal, if indeed it ever does.

In this situation, opening the church building for worship is a task fraught with difficulty. To give you some idea of the issues inherent in the process, there are listed below a number of requirements which we will need to meet before we can consider opening, as well as a list of things which we cannot expect to happen if and when we get back together. If the list seems long and daunting it may explain why the Kirk Session have been so reluctant to rush back to opening the building.

We cannot open until:

- the principles in the guidance document provided by the central offices have been met. For example, we need to ensure that the water supply is safe, given that it has been lying for several months. Stale water carries a risk of Legionella
- we have completed a risk assessment to ensure that any possible obstacles which may leave anyone at risk of infection have been mitigated. This risk assessment has to be submitted for inspection by Presbytery.

We will need:

- to ensure that as people arrive at church, they can wait to enter the building at a safe physical distance.
- to ensure that only as many people as we can safely accommodate with physical distancing are allowed to enter and take part in worship.
- to be able to safely practice physical distancing within the church building.
- to provide suitable hygiene and sanitisation products, including facemasks.
- to wear face masks while attending worship.
- to operate a trace and protect system taking contact details, if we don’t already have them, of anyone who attends worship.
- to identify a designated contact to operate the trace and protect system. Anyone who attends worship and becomes ill within the following two weeks must tell the designated contact immediately.
- to provide access to suitable hand hygiene facilities, while also maintaining cleanliness and physical distancing.
- sufficient volunteers, who are not themselves in a vulnerable category, to assist with the regular cleaning and disinfection of our buildings **before and after, every** time we gather.

Every surface which **may** have been touched will need to be cleaned after a service, and before the next service.

- sufficient volunteers to help the duty team assist church members and visitors to our buildings to help them understand and follow our safety precautions, and to show them to appropriate seating.
- to operate a one-way system for entering and leaving the building.
- to leave doors open during the service to allow a through current of air and to minimise contact on handles and doors.
- to set out seating with a 2m distance between each seat.
- protocols to ensure the safety of the team counting the offering.
- to confirm, albeit discreetly, that anyone attending church is well and not either displaying symptoms or in an extremely vulnerable category.
- to source, print, and display notices regarding our protocols and procedures.
- to uplift the offering on entry as we cannot pass plates up and down the rows.
- to develop procedures to evacuate the premises if necessary which preserve physical distancing.

In addition:

- Tea and coffee after the service can only be provided under strict conditions and including physical distancing.
- Communion will be a particular challenge due to the need to serve the elements in a way that preserves everyone's safety.

We also need to be aware that we will not be able to:

- shake hands with one another.
- be within 2m of anyone except members of our own family.
- sing.
- bring the Bible in and out of the Sanctuary at the beginning and end of the service, but rather it will have to be left at the lectern.
- involve other people in worship, reading the Bible, praying, the children's talk, as easily as before as we need to manage risks in these activities.

Without singing, with physical distancing, and, almost certainly, reduced numbers able to attend at any one time, services will feel very different from what we are used to. Many of us, who would love to return to worshipping in the church building, really want to return to worship as we knew it, but the sad truth is that worship as we knew it is gone, if not forever, then at least for quite a long time to come.

Hopefully, this has given some indication of the difficulties involved in reopening the church building for worship. However, it is not all doom and gloom. We have a small group of eight people who will consider all these issues and look for ways to deal with the problems in order that we can once more be open for worship in our building. Please pray for wisdom and guidance for this group that the suggestion and proposals it comes up with are not only going to keep us safe but will also not be beyond us in terms of our ability to meet the necessary criteria.

And pray also that God will use us in this time to be a church without walls, reaching out to our community in new and different ways, and when we return to our building, to take many of the lessons we have learnt in this time to enrich our life, our worship, and our fellowship for years to come.

The Guild



With uncertainty being the order of the day, the likelihood of the Guild being able to meet in the Church building recedes. We have therefore decided that there will be no meetings in 2020 and we will assess the position after January. Meanwhile for those with access to the internet there are regular messages from The Guild. We are also trying to keep in touch locally with all members by phone. Every three years the Guild adopts six projects. Recently we received interesting news about Seema's project in India. Seema works with street children and in particular the children of sex workers. She epitomises our theme for the year - 'Going the extra mile.' Do read about their work during this current pandemic.

Update from Seema's project in India

India, like almost every country in the world, has been hit very badly by the coronavirus pandemic. The sudden lockdown in March (with just four hours' notice) has had a disproportionate effect on the country's poor, most of whom are daily wagers, who suddenly had no income and were thus unable to buy food for their families. Pune's red-light district was closed by the police, including the Guild sponsored feeding programme, so starvation for the sex workers and their families became a bigger threat than COVID-19 to this young population. However, Seema and her team bought and distributed food to the mothers and children.

Seema and her husband, Shirish, had become so concerned about the welfare of the street children that they won permission from the government to admit the children to the Bori Rehabilitation Centre. Twenty-five children, two of whom are a brother and sister found on the street at Pune Railway station, travelled the 80 miles to Bori on Friday 19 June; they are currently in quarantine at the home. A further 20 children from the red-light district are due to arrive by the end of June. This means there will be 60-plus children at the Bori Centre.

Thanks to the support of the Guild the FTLT has sent, on top of the usual quarterly maintenance funds, an additional COVID-19 Emergency Fund of £10,000 for the employment of extra staff and provisions.

Seema and Shirish send grateful thanks to Guild members for the amazing support that has allowed them to expand their work so rapidly during this health emergency.

The Forgotten Apostle



"Christ and Mary Magdalene, a Finnish Legend" Albert Gustaf Aristides Edelfelt (1854 – 1905)

This scene, where Jesus says to Mary, do not hold on to me, is the most painted of the Easter scenes.

John 20: 15 - 18

Jesus asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Who was Mary Magdalene? July 22 was the feast day of Mary Magdalene, but why is this one woman singled out from the many who witnessed Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection? What is special about Mary Magdalene? She was a Jewish woman who, according to all four gospels, travelled with Jesus as one of his followers, but others also followed, so she is not unique in this. She, along with others, witnessed his crucifixion, but, according to Matthew, Mark, and Luke, she remained with him as he was buried. All four gospels identify her, either alone or as a member of a larger group of women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as the first to witness the empty tomb and the resurrection.

There are several remarkable things about the story of Mary Magdalene. She remained with Jesus throughout his ordeal, even up until his burial. All four gospels are unanimous in telling us that when all the other disciples are fleeing, Mary Magdalene stands firm. She does not run away; she does not betray her Lord nor lie about her commitment to him; instead she witnesses bravely to others. In her conduct at the time of Jesus’ death and resurrection she displays deep love, deep commitment, and deep understanding of the mission of Jesus.

She was the first at the tomb on the Sunday morning, the first to meet the risen Lord. It is remarkable that all four gospels witness to Mary Magdalene as the premiere witness to the resurrection—alone or in a group, but in all cases named by name. Even Mary the mother of Jesus is mentioned as present at the crucifixion in only one gospel and in none at the resurrection. This unanimity of the Gospels is unusual and speaks of a high place given to Mary Magdalene by the gospel writers.

She was the first to be given the responsibility to spread the news, to testify, to witness to the resurrection of Jesus. In Jewish society at that time a woman was not allowed to testify in court of law because their testimony was thought not to be reliable. Yet Jesus entrusted this most important testimony to Mary Magdalene. She was told to go and announce the good news of the resurrection to the others. In other words, she first to be commissioned, and it is on the basis of this that she has been given the traditional title, “Apostle to the Apostles.”

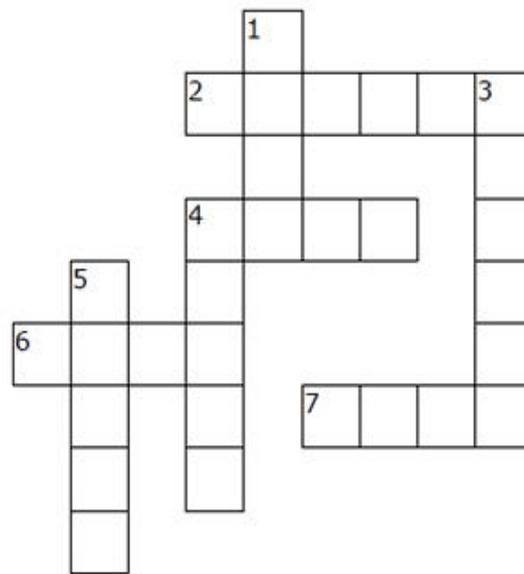
We are accustomed to thinking that Jesus died alone and rejected, yet, hidden in single versus, often overlooked, the Gospels tell us unanimously that one person remained with him throughout his ministry and throughout his ordeal – Mary Magdalene. It only remains to wonder, why is the apostle to the apostles not herself an apostle?



The "Bee Attitudes"

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.
Matthew 5:1-2 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 5:1-12



ACROSS

- 2. A need for food
- 4. To be humble in spirit or manner
- 6. Having little money or few possessions
- 7. To feel happiness, joy and pleasure

DOWN

- 1. To be without any faults; without sin
- 3. A payment received in return for doing good deeds
- 4. To show great kindness toward others
- 5. To feel sadness

PURE	MOURN	REWARD	HUNGER
POOR	GLAD	MERCY	MEEK

The "Bee Attitudes"

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.
Matthew 5:1-2 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 5:1-12



K M B S P F N T K X V Y K L X
 Z Y Z P X U H E H I E C K J K
 J E B I W P R S P I N A R K X
 J J O R G J H E O O R G R S X
 E W T I X D H U S P O S D T M
 H X S T I O B N N C U R T O H
 Z I G S D E C O Y G W R M Y M
 I K M B J L I C X D E I O C I
 N W I L V I R L C K C R U W W
 H I Y E U E X U A H H M R B D
 E K R S M Z H E A V E N N E Z
 R K R S K W X B T M I A L G E
 I N N E E A A B S F H L R U X
 T W B D O S G P F D I W L T Z
 F M E E K V F U O F Q R G B V

MOURN	THIRST	PURE	HUNGER	HEART
FILLED	MEEK	MERCY	POOR	EARTH
KINGDOM	INHERIT	HEAVEN	BLESSED	SPIRIT

The "Bee Attitudes"



Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. Matthew 5:1-2 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

S	A	Y	X	O	L	B	G	C	Q	J	D	U	W	Z	N	T	R	P	E	V	I	M	K	H	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

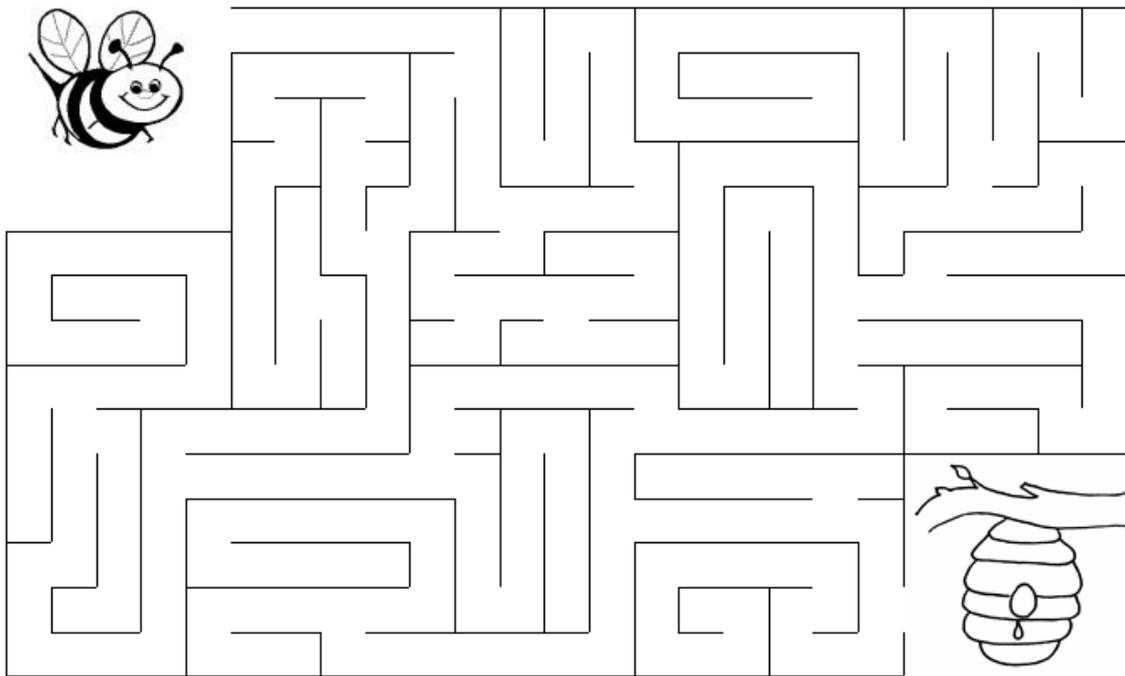
1. 7-20-2-17-22-17-13-12-20-1 _____
2. 19-5-5-18 _____
3. 1-19-22-18-22-17 _____
4. 23-5-13-18-16 _____
5. 23-20-20-24 _____
6. 25-13-16-8-20-18 _____
7. 23-20-18-9-22-26-13-6 _____
8. 19-13-18-20 _____
9. 24-22-16-8-12-5-23 _____
10. 25-20-2-21-20-16 _____

HUNGER	MOURN	SPIRIT	MERCIFUL	MEEK
POOR	PURE	KINGDOM	BEATITUDES	HEAVEN

Bee Maze

Don't Worry — "Bee" Happy!

Can you help the bee find its way to the hive?



P.S. Return to worship in the Church Building.

Since the magazine was edited the situation as regards worship has developed. We are now in a position to consider opening for worship, however, there are a number of issues still to consider.

The Sanctuary can accommodate up to 26 people including 7 couples/families. With a little rearranging, 10 couples could be accommodated if necessary. If there are no couples, 19 people can be accommodated safely.

It will be necessary to book in advance and this will also assist in the process of Test and Protect. If you wish to attend please contact Margaret Tindall on 01360 310911 or at margarettindall23@talktalk.net giving your name and contact details by the Friday before the Sunday you wish to attend. We have a legal obligation to take these details and retain them for three weeks, after which time they will be disposed of.

If the service is oversubscribed in any week then anyone unable to attend will be given priority the following week.

The church building will be open for worship at 11 AM on 20 September unless government guidelines change before that date. If you would like to come to worship on that date please contact Margaret before Friday the 18th September.

*** There is also a telephone recording of church services for those who do not have access to the internet. This can be accessed by phoning 01360 600 663.

Back To a 'new' Normal?!

Furlough, home schooling, being mum 24/7, not being allowed to spend time with the family we are used to seeing every day.....it's been a long 5 or so months and although the days have been long and at times testing, these are 5 months which I am incredibly grateful for.

At first we worried how we would manage with Gordon being furloughed but the gift of time is something that money can't buy and with Gordon being at home he has been able to be here for Harry's 2nd Birthday, Olly's 1st Birthday and to see Olly start walking. We

have spent our days walking to Strathblane, Milton of Campsie, discovering the Finglen Waterfall and much more. We were incredibly lucky with the weather God graced us with during lockdown life!



We filled our 'free' time (there was plenty of it!!)

painting rocks and then hiding them, drawing rainbows, standing on our doorstep clapping for our carers and roped Gordon into decorating!!

We look forward to getting back into a routine as we embark on our 'new normal' as Ryan and Freya head back to school; Ryan going into S2 and Freya begins her last year at Lennoxton Primary.

We look forward to seeing you all back at church where Olly will be wreaking havoc alongside Harry; now he is on his feet! God help us all!!

Stay safe xx



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Scottish Charity Number: SC000835



Campsie Parish Church