



# Beath and Cowdenbeath North Church



Newsletter 273 September 2020



## MINISTER'S LETTER

From the manse..

On 31<sup>st</sup> August 1803 an expedition led by Meriweather Lewis and William Clark left Pennsylvania in USA. Their mission was to cross newly acquired land in the western part of America in order to find a water route out to the Pacific Ocean. The expedition was commissioned by the president Thomas Jefferson and was also to map out the territory; record and scientifically study the plants and animals and also to trade with native Indian tribes. They returned from their journey on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1806. Like all expeditions it was not without its difficulties but it was successful.

A couple of years ago I read a book entitled 'Canoeing the Mountains' by Tod Bolsinger. In this book the Lewis and Clark expedition is used to help us understand change and how we manage it. The expedition set off using boats to navigate up the Missouri River, but they eventually came to the Rockies, hence the title. The expedition that they had planned for was a river one, but once they encountered the mountains, a terrain for which they had not prepared, then their plans had to change.

As you are no doubt aware by now we are planning to return to worship in the church building. For us too this will look like canoeing the mountains. We have all been used to worshipping in a particular way and to the ways that we 'do' church. Much of that which was familiar will change, and the details of that are laid out elsewhere in this newsletter. It would be easy to think of this as a negative experience where everything is different. However, we are being presented with a unique chance too. For several years there has been a recognition in the Church of Scotland that there is a need for change and that we cannot go on as we are. It raises the important question for us – what do we want church to be like? Do we want to go on doing what has always been done or is there scope for us to think differently? What will the church of the future look like? These are big questions, but if we learn to change to navigate in a new way then we can be the church that God is calling us to be and we can be confident that God will equip us to do his work.

Debbie



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## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION : PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

### **Reopening Of Beath and Cowdenbeath North Church**

The church is likely to reopen for weekly worship from **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020** subject to the approval of Presbytery. **You will NOT be able to attend unless you have made an advance booking.**

- **How to Book** – Booking for each week opens on the Monday before the service and closes on Thursday evening.
- To make a booking please phone Andy Beattie on 01383 831871.
- You will be asked for your name, phone number, and the number of people in your party.
- Your data will be used to enable us to manage numbers and to comply with Trace and Protect legislation. It will be held securely and destroyed in accordance with data protection legislation after 21 days.
  
- **At the Church** – Entry into the building will be via the Guthrie Hall main entrance only.
- You will be met at the door by a steward who will check that you are on the bookings list for that week. Only those whose name appears on the list will be able to enter the building.
- You must wear a face covering at all times whilst in the building (unless you are medically exempt).
- A plate for your offering will be available as you enter the hall.
- Please observe all notices and instructions from the steward.
- You will be required to use the hand sanitiser provided when you enter the building.
- You will be shown to a particular seat, please remain in that seat throughout the service and do not move the seat to sit with others.
- Throughout your time in the building please maintain a physical distance of 2 metres from everyone else (except those in your household party) at all times.
- Should you need to use the toilet, please only use the disabled toilet in the corridor. The hall toilets will be unavailable.
- Please note that there will be no singing during the service.
- Please bring your own bottle of water if you require a drink during the service, and please do not share drinks or food with others.
- When the service is finished please remain in your seat until you are directed to leave via the front door.



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- You will be required to use hand sanitiser again on the way out.
- Unfortunately there will be no tea or coffee, or time to chat, after the service.
- Please do not congregate in the church grounds either before or after the service.

**Should I attend?** – Those who are showing any symptoms of Covid 19 (Coronavirus) or have been told to self-isolate **SHOULD NOT ATTEND**. Those with serious underlying health conditions should seriously consider not attending at this time. Those in vulnerable groups such as the over 70s and those with less serious health conditions should also consider whether to attend at this stage.

This guidance will be updated as and when required. For any queries please phone Debbie on 07379 223415 or Andy on 01383 831871.



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## A 'Thank You' from the Treasurer

Dear Members,

Over the last six months, some members have come to my door with their donation envelopes. Some have contacted me and asked for their donation envelopes to be collected from their homes while others donate by Standing Order through their bank. With their great help, together with the refund, applied for by Mrs Margaret Ross, of Tax Relief that we receive from the Inland Revenue on Gift Aid Standing Orders, we have just about been able to keep our head above water.

Having just done the financial report for August, we have a small deficit but this would have been much, much worse, without your continued support.

Thank you to each of you, you know who you are. The Lord is good. I thank you most sincerely on behalf of the Minister and the Kirk Session.

Blessings to you all, stay safe and take care.

*Margaret Clark*  
Treasurer