



Carriden Parish Church

Together in Spirit

November 2020



Dear Friends,

As we continue in these challenging times, we may be alone by necessity, but we remain together in spirit.

If you would like to make contact, please refer to the church website www.carridenchurch.co.uk, or contact your elder. If you know of anyone who would like a paper copy of the newsletter please contact barbara@blackbourn.co.uk

Please get in touch if you need support or would like us to provide Church Family news and, in the meantime, stay well, stay safe, stay home, stay connected. Please feel free to forward this on to friends and family.

Contact details for David Wandrum, our Locum Minister: **Home: 01236 723288 or Mobile 0779 266 4503**

or email david.wandrum@btinternet.com

A message from the Session Clerk

Church Services

Carriden opened its Church Premises in October in line with government guidelines. The services in Carriden and Blackness were led by Rev David Wandrum and they have gone well, they have been meaningful and worshipful despite the restrictions.

We also had our first mid-week service in the Mission Hall on Wednesday 28th October at 1:30pm. This service was taken by Rev Debbie Van Welie, who stepped in at short notice to cover for Philip Hacking who was unable to lead the service due to work commitments. It was good to welcome Debbie back.

Services are scheduled at Carriden and Blackness on Sunday 8th November (Remembrance Sunday) and Sunday 29th November (1st Sunday in Advent). A service is also planned for Wednesday 18th November in the Mission Hall. Since numbers are restricted booking is essential. To secure your place for all services please ring **01506 797610**.

Bo'ness Conversations

On Tuesday 27th October, Falkirk Presbytery approved the Presbytery Planning Groups recommendations. The Presbytery Plan for Bo'ness is one full time minister, one O.L.M (ordained local minister) together with a shared MDS (ministries development staff) with Grangemouth. That may be disappointing to some but it needs to be said that a similar plan exists for Grangemouth with one full time minister and one O.L.M. and a shared MDS with Bo'ness. Falkirk will have 2 ministers in the new plan so Bo'ness is not being adversely treated relative to other places in the Presbytery and reflects the current situation in the wider Church of Scotland. The approval of that plan gives further impetus to the Bo'ness Conversations Group where your representatives from Carriden are working with those from the Old Kirk and St Andrews to determine how we can make this work successfully for the Church of Scotland in Bo'ness. We will be planning some joint activities in the near future in line with current government coronavirus restrictions. The group met on Wednesday 28th October and will meet again on 18th November, virtually of course.

A message from our Interim Moderator

Dear Friends

Here we are approaching eight months into our COVID situation, and sometimes the whole situation seems like a roller coaster. Numbers down, then up again. The threat hanging over us of a renewed period of restriction with all the family and individual angst that brings with it and Christmas not far away.

Carriden and Blackness churches are open for Sunday worship on certain dates and this is a positive step forward.

Special thanks to the team who prepared for and enabled both Carriden and Blackness churches to open safely adhering to the requirements of both the Scottish Government and of the Presbytery of Falkirk.

I am grateful for the stories I frequently hear of individual care and concern expressed for members, friends and neighbours – especially those who need particular thought. Thank you for making a difference.

At this time of uncertainty and change the church has an opportunity and a responsibility to adapt to the new situation within which we find ourselves so we can continue to respond to our calling to live as Christ's disciples and to spread the Good News of the gospel. In our everyday lives we are encouraged and inspired by our faith and so in these challenging times it is that faith in God and one another that will make us able to forge ahead, forge new ways of working and forge even deeper relationships with those around us as we do. That is the calling of the church – so in a moment when people are looking for something to make sense amidst their confusion and anxiety, we must work harder than ever to make known the faith, and the God, that so inspires us. It is in response to this predicament that we are now seeking to create our future reality together and we want to do that in ways that are sustainable and innovative. None of us could have realised how the flexibility and adaptability many of us were starting to embrace through our experiences and within such a short space of time. This is not a time to debate the whys and wherefores of new ways. Maybe this is a time to simply listen and act and encourage and respond to new ways of moving forward as a parish church in the community of Bo'ness.

With all good wishes, Philip

Contact details for Philip Hacking, our Interim Moderator : **Home: 01324 337936 or Mobile: 07985 625831 or email: phil.hacking@gmail.com** and this information is also on the Carriden Parish Church website.

Bereavements

Rita Stanners 28th September

Nan Wylie 8th October

Robert Martin 12th October

