

Thursday 10th September 2020

SUMMER MINISTRY STUDENT.

A message from George Sneddon

George Sneddon is a ministry student who spent part of his summer placement with Tinto Parishes. In normal circumstances that would have included travelling around the parishes, meeting church members and parishioners, and leading worship.



Unfortunately none of this is possible at the moment, so you will only have met George virtually, on Zoom worship, or on Thursday evening reflective scriptural reading events. George has now come to the end of his placement, and he wanted to give a final greeting to us.

“I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you all in gracious thanks for all the support and kind words, friendship and teaching that you have given me during my short, socially distanced, but profound placement within your congregations.

I confess at having come to this placement without any understanding of the context of a triple charge where 3 independent churches work together, nor did I understand the importance of connectivity and often, at times, the unpredictability of the tools through which the modern world allows us to connect. I have left feeling more appreciative of the work that you all do to maximise your fellowship and family ties together. It has been quite lovely to be part of and I shall miss it very much.

It goes without saying that this time with you has not been what I expected it to be. The pandemic has called us into a different place, into a new and inventive space where we're all having to reimagine and reinvent.

So, with sincere gratitude, may I wish you all every blessing for the future.

Yours faithfully.

George Sneddon.

ANNUAL LEAVE.

Rev. George is on leave Monday 14th September to Monday 28th September inclusive.

For any pastoral emergencies please contact Rev. Nikki Macdonald of Upper Clyde Church on 01864 502139.

SUNDAY WORSHIP.

Sundays 20th and 27th September. These will be hosted by Robert Carson of Symington Church and members of the church worship group. Therefore a new link will be required just for those Sundays.

Watch out for the link so that you can keep a hold of it over the two Sundays.

Sunday 4th October. On George's return our Sunday worship will be the sacrament of Holy Communion as part of World Communion Sunday.

If you would like to participate please do have some bread and wine, or an alternative, ready at home.

There is no expectation that everyone attending will want to participate in the communion, and the remainder of the service will be as usual.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW IN OUR CHURCHES?

In the last twelve days, each of our Tinto Parishes Kirk Sessions met, and additional small group meetings were held with the Presbytery Clerk of Lanark Presbytery. Our Kirk Sessions always bear in mind that when they meet they need to consider, 'is now the time to reopen our building?'

The meetings with the Presbytery Clerk were designed to help us understand in detail the measures we would need to put in place for permission from Presbytery to reopen our buildings. These include specific cleaning arrangements, social distancing practices, and limits on the seating numbers. Other measures include restrictions on singing, and no teas and coffees after worship. These measures have all been agreed between the Scottish Government and Church of Scotland as appropriate to put in place if church buildings are to reopen safely.

We can tell you that Cairngryffe and Libberton & Quothquan Churches do not feel the time is yet right for them to reopen, and they will consider this again in November.

Symington Church Kirk Session has agreed to begin the process that will lead to reopen for Sunday worship—possibly by mid October.

You will hear much more about these plans as they progress.

BLESSING

Praise Go whose love surrounds us all
Praise God who lifts us when we fall
Praise God for hope in times of fear;
Praise God who always holds us near.

This was written by Roger Lynn on 12th September 2001, the day after 9/11.

Tinto Parishes REFLECTION phone line.

The line is available to call at any time, and a new reflection is added every week to ten days.

01899 205410

A reflection from Rev. George for those who cannot access the internet or take part in the Sunday worship. Or for just anyone!

Please do pass this information on