

IMPAC

Christmas Blessings from All at **Monifieth Parish Church**

FOLLOW THE STAR!
ADVENT-CHRISTMAS-EPIPHANY

- ★ 1st December 2020 until 6th January 2021
- ★ Watch the stars multiply at Monifieth Parish Church
- ★ Add stars to your own windows
- ★ Look out for weekly 'make a star' videos

**Christmas 2020 will be different --
let's make it SPECIAL!**



Monifieth Parish Church of Scotland Registered Charity SC008965 www.mpcos.org.uk



2020 Christmas & 2021 New Year Special Edition of IMPACt.

CHRISTMAS EVE 2020 FAMILY SERVICE

JOIN US VIA ZOOM
AT 5:30PM
FOR A FAMILY SERVICE

Before Christmas Eve:

- ★ Head to mpcos.org.uk/xmas
- ★ Complete form
- ★ Keep password in safe place!

If not online, call 01382 699183



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CHRISTMAS EVE 2020 LESSONS & CAROLS

From 7pm: a pre-recorded service of

Lessons & Carols

will be available via

www.mpcos.org.uk/xmas

* If you are not online, request
delivery of a DVD/CD by calling
01382 699183 before 24th Dec.



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Nativity. [by video]

In development at presentwatch for the release on-line!!



Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions this year we have been unable to take part in many of our usually busy fundraising efforts. We are, however, organising a Christmas Raffle, which will be drawn on 14th December. The super prizes include Christmas food hampers, a large hamper of specialist toiletries from the Body Shop, £100 Tesco voucher, various High Street vouchers and much more. If you would like to buy a ticket (**£1 each**), please contact Irene Coull [533579/07753451388] or Lindsey le Grice [530368/07761133547] and we will arrange to get them to you.

Thank you for your support.

Please contact us if you would like to refer someone for our service or are interested in becoming a Befriender.

Tel. 01382 760142 Email. office@monifiethbefriending.co.uk



Corporate Worship In Our Church Building: Update

The Kirk Session has agreed to align services to the new Scotland-wide Tier structure. Whilst our county is in Level 0-3, we will retain the current structure of services throughout the week:

- 6:30pm** on a Tuesday.
- 2pm** on a Wednesday.
- 11am** on a Saturday.

If you wish to attend a particular service, please call Mrs. Dorothy Culloch on 01382 534844. We have yet to have a completely full service, so if you have not booked in advance, you are still likely to be able to attend. Should Angus be placed in Tier 4, we will cease our corporate worship in the building and revert to pre-recorded services, plus nightly prayers online.

Throughout your time in the building.....

- You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth, unless expressly exempt.
- Please use the hand sanitiser as you enter and leave the building.
- Please leave or confirm your contact details at the front door.

We have set up the sanctuary in such a way as to encourage 2m physical distancing, one of the trickiest things to maintain in church! Please do your best to keep apart: we know it is hard, but it is probably further than you think! During the service, there continues be no singing: the service will consist of prayers, readings and reflections. At the end of the service, please resist grouping together for a chat and do not congregate directly outside the building.

It is important to note that you do not have to come to the building if you do not wish to do so: it will not be held against you! Virtual services of worship will continue to be available online or via DVD/CD/USB/cassette (please call the manse if you wish to receive one). Most importantly, if you any experience of symptoms of COVID-19 (a temperature over 37.8°C; a new, continuous cough; a loss or change to your sense of taste or smell) you **must not** come to a service but self-isolate and book a test. Likewise, if you have been told to self-isolate by a member of the NHS Test and Protect Team, you **must not** come to a service until the conclusion of the isolation period.

Minister's Musings.

Dear Friends,

As we look back on a quite extraordinary year, there is much that could be said and remembered about 2020.

I would like to take this time and space to say, "thank you". Thank you to you, the members of MPC who have continued to BE the church this year. You have brought Christ to your homes, streets and workplaces at a time when His love was in desperate need. Thank you, too, for your continued generosity to our congregation (and charity), particularly financially, at a time when resources have seemed scarce. You have changed the ways you give, and you have supported the makers of our congregation by buying face coverings, jam, etc.

There are 2 other groups of people I would like to thank. The first is the many people who have contributed in a hands-on way to the working of MPC this year, from recording music and taking pictures for worship to checking, cleaning and opening the building. They have all made my job easier and enhanced the worship experience for us all. The other is the people who support me, personally and professionally, helping me have the resilience to minister in good times and bad. You may never have the chance to meet them, but their ministry blesses us all and I could not be more grateful.

Looking ahead to the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, my prayer is that we would each discern wisely and act faithfully. The governments of the various UK nations have yet (at the time of writing) to decide and publish the UK-wide COVID regulations for Christmas. Included in this IMPACT is part of a reflection I wrote at the end of October, and my position has not changed. Let us not put all our sacrifices over the past year to waste this December. Let us not put lives at risk when the Christ of Christmas came to offer fullness of life. Let us not consign ourselves to further months of isolation and anxiety for the sake of a few days' merry-making. Instead, may the humility of the shepherds, the endurance of the magi, the obedience of Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be ours, in abundance, this Christmas.

With every blessing,

Fee Reynolds.

CHRISTMAS 2020.

(originally published on MPC's Facebook page, 24 October 2020)

I am sure I am not the only clergy person in Scotland who has begun to think how to mark Christmas in a different way this year. We had to do it for Easter and Pentecost, as well as conduct funerals, weddings and other religious care in different ways. Things are different just now, and that does not (and cannot) change for Christmas Day, just as it did not change for the major religious festivals of our Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh sisters and brothers. To think otherwise is to think ourselves better or more important than others, and such superiority does not belong in celebrations of the Incarnation.

Christmas is not cancelled. Christians across the world will mark the coming of God to Earth in a human body, in ways that honour the human bodies on Earth today. We will remember that God so loved the world that God stepped into the messiness of our lives together. We will give thanks that God did not come as part of the gentry or ruling elite, but into an ordinary family. We will marvel at the less-than-salubrious place where Jesus first laid his head. We will rejoice that in the dark, ordinary, difficult places of human experience, God is not absent but born amongst us. Christmas will look and feel different this year, but Christmas will be fundamentally the same: thanks be to God.

Fee Reynolds.

Spiritual & Pastoral Care In Hospital.

Often when members of the church are in hospital (*and the minister is aware!*) she and/or the Parish Assistant will visit them. Since March, visits to hospitals have been greatly restricted; however, spiritual and pastoral support are still an important part of a person's care. Every hospital and hospice has an NHS-employed chaplain as part of the staff. They can support any patient or resident, as required. Moreover, it is possible for Fee or Scott to visit someone in hospital to provide spiritual or pastoral care, without there being an impact on the visits made by family members. Please contact either the NHS chaplaincy service or the manse in the first instance.

Update On Our Parish Assistant.

Scott Reynolds changed his job in mid-October, although you may not have noticed. He is now a full-time employee of the Church of Scotland and our Parish Assistant. We are delighted at the appointment and are glad he can dedicate his working hours solely to MPC.

You can still contact him via parish-assistant@mpcos.org.uk or on **699183**.

Congregational Roll.

DEATHS.

„I am the resurrection and the life“

- 29th Jul. Mr. William Coupar, Monifieth. (*District 68 Ian Clapperton*)
1st Sep. Mrs. Lourdes Bailey, Monifieth. (*District 44 Celina Heslip*)
15th Sep. Mrs. Margaret Smith, Perth. [formerly Monifieth.] (*District 1b Postal*)
23rd Sep. Mr. Maver Suttie, Monifieth. (*District 41 Colin Coull*)
26th Sep. Mrs. Jean Nicoll, Monifieth. (*District 21 Andrew McArtney*)
7th Oct. Mrs. Elsie Flockhart, Monifieth. (*District 5 Cathy Bowman*)
23rd Oct. Mrs. Peggy Anderson, Carnoustie. (*District 17 Ian Greig*)
7th Nov. Mrs. May Irons, Monifieth. (*District 40 Ed McIntosh*)

Church Organisations.

Guild News.

Unfortunately, we are unable to say at this stage when Guild meetings are likely to restart. We hope that we will be able to meet in the new year, but this will depend on Scottish Covid numbers and government restrictions. A group is considering what needs to happen to allow meetings of the Boys' Brigade to start and after that, other church groups will be looked at. In the meantime, we wish all Guild members a peaceful Christmas and we all hope that 2021 will be a better year than 2020!

The Guild Leadership Team.

Jam Jars.

Can we in the Fundraising Committee offer a big thanks to Dorothy Gordon who has continually made and sold jam throughout the Covid period, and probably hasn't stopped yet! She has raised nearly **£1000**, so well done and....

“Thank you, Dorothy”.

Also, sincere thanks to everyone who handed in jars, but we now have enough of a supply - so no more needed. Thank you All.

Lesley McFarlane.

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal 2020.

A huge “Thank You” to everyone who contributed to this year's Shoebox Appeal. We were delighted that, despite all the Covid restrictions people faced, we still managed to collect **1,230 cartons** (approximately 10 boxes in each) and £1,692 in donations. These, and an amazing amount of 'Fillers', some of which the most beautiful hand-knits, will soon be on their way to Romania. We can't thank you enough as we know it will all be greatly appreciated, especially as this horrible world pandemic is adding to their usual deprivations. Again many, many thanks.

Moira Anthony.

B.B. News.

Sad to say that we do not have any good news yet about our Boys' Brigade Company restarting „Face-to-Face“ activities, hopefully maybe early in the new year.

Unfortunately, the 1st Monifieth Company **WILL NOT** be doing our **“Monifieth Christmas Card Delivery Service”** this year due to the current Covid restrictions, but we all hope that it will return in 2021.



Pictures of Alfie and Benjamin, two boys from our BB Junior Section, taking part in this year's Remembrance Day activities.

On behalf of everyone in the 1st Monifieth Company, please continue to stay safe and take care.

Archie Peaston, Company Captain.

Christmas Greetings.

From

Joyce & John Macmillan.

Due to the present Covid circumstances, Joyce and John will not be sending cards this year and have asked that their Best Wishes for Christmas and New Year 2021 be passed on to all of their friends.

Editor's Chat.

What is there to say about the last few weeks in various types of 'lockdown'? I hope that you are all finding a way of keeping in touch with friends, even if the daily casual chats are not as frequent as previously and since we cannot meet in each other's homes, we're not even able to enjoy a coffee (unless up at Dobbies or other similar locations?). I don't know about you, but I find that I frequently pass a friend in the street because of that face-covering mask. Only seeing half of a face can make that person unrecognisable - till they speak, that is assuming that they have recognised me!

We Sutherlands will be missing our annual visit to Madeira this Christmas, but we are already planning how to meet up with our friends for next Christmas. So you may see us around this yearif you can recognise me under the mask(??)

Since this is our 2020 Christmas / New Year 2021 issue of IMPACT, may I take the opportunity to wish you our readers, a "Peaceful Festive Season" from everyone associated with IMPACT; the contributors, compilers, printers, deliverers and of course, from your editor.

May 2021 be a different year and hopefully a better year for us all.

Bob Sutherland Editor.

Contact Names & Numbers.

Minister.	Rev. Fiona J. Reynolds, 8 Church Street, Monifieth.	699183
Session Clerk.	Rod Bowman, 7b Victoria Street,	530522
Depute Session Clerk.	Barbara Burns, 18 Sunart Street, Broughty Ferry,	739009
Pastoral Assistant	Scott Reynolds, 8 Church Street,	699183
Pastoral Care Convener	Scott Reynolds, 8 Church Street,	699183
Treasurer.	Alastair Robertson, 20 Travebank Gardens,	533566
Hall Letting.	Morag Clapperton, 2 Milton Mill,	534384
Property Maintenance.	Ed McIntosh, 6 Travebank Gardens,	533321
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MPC Youth Group.	Nicky Stewart.	534479
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Girls' Brigade Contact.	Marion Robertson (<i>Captain</i>)	533958
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Transport to Church	Colin Coull, 3 Elmgrove,	533579
Roll Keeper.	Ron Grace, 41 Roundyhill,	532832
Presbytery Elder.	Ian Clapperton, 2 Milton Mill,	534384
Flower Group.	Linda Duff, 48 Ramsay Street,	534566
Organist.	Valerie Jamieson, 8A Albert Street,	532772
Website.	mpcos.org.uk	-
Sunday Service Podcast.	monifiethparishchurch.buzzsprout.com	-