

Aberlemno Guthrie & Rescobie

Registered Charity in Scotland (Sco18944) & (SCO17327)

Issue 110

May 2021

Church Services

May

10.00am Aberlemno 11.30am Rescobie

June

10.00am Aberlemno 11.30am Guthrie

July

United Services at 10.00am

4 - Rescobie
11 - Aberlemno
18 - Guthrie
25 - Aberlemno

August

United Services at 10.00am

1 - Rescobie
8 - Aberlemno
15 - Guthrie
22 - Aberlemno
29 - Rescobie

September

10.00am Guthrie 11.30am Aberlemno

Due to Covid restrictions there will be no Communion Services at present and there will be no evening service at Aberlemno on 30th May. We hope to be able to hold these in the Autumn.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

The Manse,

May 2021

Dear friends,

It is wonderful that we are now able to have Church services once more, even if they are still very limited in a number of ways. Hopefully, as restrictions are lifted we will be able to return to more normal services. At the time of writing there is no date yet for a return to congregational singing and social distancing will no doubt be here for a while.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who have been so supportive of myself and our Churches during this pandemic; those who have worked hard cleaning and sanitizing our Churches; our Session Clerks, Clerks to the Boards and Treasurers who have kept the administrative and financial management of our congregations going in very difficult circumstances, our Elders and all of you who have given generous financial support during the lockdowns. I would also like to say a word of thanks to those members of our congregations who have served as frontline workers or volunteers during the pandemic. Finally, I would like to express my sympathy and condolences to those who have lost a loved one during this time.

On a personal note I would like to thank those who have telephoned or written to me asking how I was getting on during this very strange time for ministers and showing their kind concern for my family.

People are now talking about a “new normal” and there is no doubt that we will not simply return to the way things were. Life is a journey, for us as individuals and as communities. That journey has been very strange, and sometimes confusing and frightening during the last year or so.

However, we must now look ahead, remembering lessons learnt during these months, appreciating the good things in our lives and holding fast to our faith in God who is always with us with us on our journey, wherever it takes us.

God bless you all,

Brian

Mr Edward (Ronnie) Hammond

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Ronnie Hammond on the 17th of March. He and his late wife, Mary, gave great support to our Churches at Guthrie and Rescobie in many ways. Ronnie was an Elder for more than 30 years and also served as our Church treasurer. He represented our congregation as Presbytery Elder in the Presbytery of Angus and was heavily involved in its finance committee.

Even though his failing health and the lockdowns had meant he had been unable to attend Church for some time, Ronnie continued to take great interest in our congregations and to give generous support.

The last time I spoke to him, only days before his death, he asked me to pass on his best wishes to everyone at Church and said that every Sunday morning he thought of us worshipping together. He was a man of deep faith who expressed that faith in his service to God.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Memorial Stone

During the first lockdown I was asked to find a gravestone at Aberlemno for a gentleman tracing his family tree. Whilst researching this I discovered that there was an area in our Churchyard which had been used for the burial of infants and still-born babies. There was nothing to mark this area and we decided to put a Memorial stone on the wall where these little ones were laid to rest.

I contacted David McGovern of Monikie Rock Art who, when he heard what the memorial was for, very generously donated the stone which he created. Raymond and Kelly prepared the area beside the stone and we were able to dedicate it on Sunday 25th of April.

B.R.

Guthrie Village Hall

Well, here we are over a year since our lovely hall was open and at the time of writing this, it is still closed. We are taking bookings for later this year in the hope that life will eventually return to some sort of normal, but of course any bookings are subject to change depending on government regulations and advice

Please be assured that as soon as we can open the hall we will get all necessary procedures in place to do so. We look forward to the day we can all get together at community events.

Christine Shand

Aberlemno and District Village Hall

We hope you are all well and have coped with the strange year we have all been through.

The Hall has been closed since last March except for school use but as restrictions ease we hope to be up and running as guidance allows. The first 'event' is of course the Scottish Parliamentary elections on the 6th May and the Hall will be open as a polling station as usual with appropriate measures in place.

We are looking forward to seeing you again in the not too distant future as circumstances allow. We hope to hold our annual plant sale outside (weather permitting) and our AGM in May. Keep an eye on the Aberlemno.org website and our facebook page to keep up to date.

Isabelle Davies
Chair

Two Events

At long last we can announce two events that are taking place in May on the 15th and 16th from 2-5 p.m. The gardens at Gardyne Castle are to be opened under the Scotland Gardens Scheme in aid of Guthrie and Rescobie Church. Adults- £5.00, children free.

Also on the 16th of May, Ewan Cameron and friends have organised a vintage tractor run around our three Churches beginning at 9.30am. Funds raised will be used to benefit our local parishes.

Aberlemno Primary School

P4-7 at Aberlemno Primary have been working on a Dragon's Den Social Enterprise Project with the Social Enterprise Academy. They compete against other schools in May as part of a competition. Their project has allowed them to consider issues that are important to them within our world, with them choosing Global Food Poverty as the most important to them. They are organising some fundraising for the charity Mary's Meals to contribute to reducing Global Food Poverty. Currently, in school, they are organising 6 weeks of 'Treat Tuesday Tuckshop' where they provide a service to the children and staff in school. This is going very well so far.

Later in the term, they are planning to create affordable food bags which will be for sale for our local community and also in the S-Mart Social Supermarket in Forfar. More information will follow once this part of the project has been planned.

All funds earned will go to Mary's Meals, providing a nutritious meal in education settings in other countries around the world.

Please view the following short film which gives information about Mary's Meals and their aim and work:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_aZ3w-vPk

Please also access the link below if you wish to donate further via the pupils in p4-7 at Aberlemno:

https://giving.marysmeals.org/en_gb/projects/qx2g-aberlemno-primary-action-for-global-food-poverty

Guthrie and Rescobie Guild

The Guild ladies hope that you are all weathering the storm of Covid. Most of you will have had your second vaccine by now and hopefully that keeps us a little safer.

It will have been a difficult time for many but with the odd phone call and visit from friends it has made it a bit easier for us all. Remember, good friends are like stars, you don't always see them but you know they are always there. Now, with the weather improving we will get out into our gardens and enjoy the sunshine. With the Church opening it is nice to meet in fellowship with our Church friends once again. Today, more than ever, we must thank God for the gift of life. No complaints, no requests, just thankful to be alive.

I hope you can enjoy the summer with family and friends. Look after yourself and stay safe.

Joyce Smith

Aberlemno Treasurer's Report

We are very grateful to our members and friends of the Church who enabled us to keep our 'heads above water' with the finances during such a difficult year in 2020. This is very much appreciated. We ended 2020 with a small surplus, which really deserves a *Gold Star*!

Thanks to all who continued to fill up their Smartie tubes. It enabled me to put a figure in the 'fund raising' column on the accounts!

On Easter Sunday, when our services started again, it was so good to see everyone. Even with face masks on, I saw the smiles shining through in everyone's eyes! This is a talent which we have all had to 'develop' during these strange times.

Let us hope the restrictions ease even further and then we'll be able to enjoy some exciting 'Fund Raisers' we have in store for you!

Thank you once again.

Lorna Hooghiemstra
Treasurer

Guthrie and Rescobie Treasurer's Report

You would have expected in 2020 with COVID and a very limited number of services Guthrie and Rescobie Church would have a large deficit for the year. Not so. Though Open Plate was obviously well down we have had a truly wonderful response with some really generous donations which have not only given us a small surplus but allowed us to repaint the ceiling of Guthrie Church and carry out essential repairs to the roof at Rescobie Church eliminating the recent leaks.

A huge thanks to one and all

James Osborne
Treasurer

Rev Brian Ramsay B.D. D.P.S. M. Litt
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PARISH REGISTER

Aberlemno

Death

Mr James Watt, Gowanbank (formerly of Kirk House) on
18th January 2021

Mr John Reid, Cuttyhaugh (formerly of Aberlemno) on
28th January 2021

Mr Neil Ramsay, Blaikie Mill on 9th March 2021

Guthrie & Rescobie

Deaths

Mr Alexander Fyfe, Letham (formerly of Clocksbriggs) on
15th March 2021

Mr Edward (Ronnie) Hammond, Woodside Cottage on
17th March 2021