

# REIDON...

REID MEMORIAL SEARCH E-MAGAZINE



christian  
**aid**

MAY 2021

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# FROM **ALEX**

*In recent weeks there has been much talk and speculation about holidays.* Will we get to travel abroad? Will we have to holiday only in the UK? Will we even be allowed to get away? As I write these questions have yet to be answered.

Last year one of my colleagues took a rather adventurous, and humorous, approach to family holidays. Being unable to get away with his family, and not wanting to use the term 'staycation', he told them they were off to the Costadel-Backgarden! He had even arranged 'adventure' days for the children, though they looked suspiciously like garden and garage clearouts!

Joking aside, we all need holidays. We all need to take a break from the usual schedules and activities. It is good for the body; it is good for the soul. I think the latter of those is often neglected. The human spirit needs to take time out to recharge, refocus, and reprioritise. In our contemporary, fast-paced, world we often lose sight of this need. At the same time, we complain of the side effects of not so doing. It does not require us to jet off to somewhere warm and sunny; we can do this from our homes or gardens. It is worth taking some time out each week simply to be still. After learning to be still, we may then learn both silence and awareness. These things contribute to a healthy body and mind.

Scripture reminds us to 'Be still, and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10). As we learn to be still, silent, and aware we will also more acutely sense of the presence of God. It is all a part of what is known as contemplation. Perhaps, as summer approaches, we can take this time for ourselves and for God. And, truth be told, we do not even have to wait until then.



YOURS IN CHRIST, **ALEX**



Give Now



## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10th-16th MAY**

*This year Christian Aid is focusing its fundraising effort on helping communities particularly affected by Climate Change.*

In Kenya severe drought and extreme changes in the weather have destroyed crops and livestock. Every second day, women in Kenya make return journeys of *six hours* to collect water for their families for washing, drinking and for their farms, journeys which may be in vain if the rainfall is unreliable. Such lack of water, so necessary for hand washing, has been highly dangerous during the past year of the pandemic.

Reid Memorial has set up a JustGiving page so members of the congregation may contribute to projects enabling effective earth dams to be built to harvest water and to support the sowing of drought resistant crops. Our aim is to make sure that everyone has access to good, reliable sources of water.

Please contribute by clicking on the link:

**<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Reidmemorialchurch>**  
and **Give Now** button.

For people without access to the internet, please send donations to **Judith Smeaton, Treasurer, Flat 7, 75C South Oswald Road, Edinburgh EH9 2HH** or call **020 7523 2269** to donate by telephone. For details on how to pay money directly into the Christian Aid bank account, please call 020 7523 2226. Please state Reid Memorial Church. **Thank you!**

**HEATHER MACAULAY** CHRISTIAN AID REPRESENTATIVE

# ALL IN THE MONTH OF **MAY**

**IT WAS 150 YEARS AGO**, on 11th May 1871 that John Herschel, British astronomer, mathematician, chemist and pioneering photographer died. Amongst other things, he named seven of Saturn's moons and investigated colour blindness. He was also President of the Royal Astronomical Society three times.

**100 YEARS AGO**, on 3rd May 1921 that Ireland was divided into Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland (now known as the Republic of Ireland).

**90 YEARS AGO**, on 1st May 1931 that the Empire State Building in New York City was officially opened.

**80 YEARS AGO**, on 1st-7th May 1941 that the German Blitz on Liverpool left nearly 3,000 dead and 70,000 homeless. Liverpool was the second most heavily targeted British city, after London.

Also **80 YEARS AGO**, on 10th May 1941 that the last major attack on London during the Blitz caused heavy damage to many important buildings, including the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St James Palace and Lambeth Palace, several railway stations and hospitals, the British Museum and the Old Bailey. More than 1,300 people were killed on one night. At one point during the Blitz, London was bombed for 57 nights in a row.

**70 YEARS AGO**, on 25th May 1951 that the British spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean fled to Moscow. They were members of the infamous Cambridge spy ring, and their whereabouts remained unknown until 1956.

**65 YEARS AGO**, on 24th May 1956 that the first Eurovision Song Contest was held in Lugano, Switzerland. It was won by Switzerland.

> **40 YEARS AGO**, on 13th May 1981 that Pope John Paul II was shot and seriously wounded by a Turkish gunman in an assassination attempt in St Peter's Square, Vatican City.

**30 YEARS AGO**, on 16th May 1991 that Queen Elizabeth II became the first British monarch to address the US Congress.

**20 YEARS AGO**, on 7th May 2001 that Great Train Robber Ronnie Biggs returned to the UK from Brazil where he had lived as a fugitive for 36 years. He was immediately arrested and sent to prison to complete his sentence. Released on compassionate grounds in 2009, he died in 2013.

**10 YEARS AGO**, on 2nd May 2011 that Osama bin Laden, Saudi Arabian-born terrorist, died. Founder of al-Qaeda, he was thought to have masterminded the 9/11 attacks on the USA. He was shot dead by US forces in Pakistan.

## MEA CULPA

*A group of lads took a trip to France and decided to attend Mass in a small town, even though none of them understood French. They managed to stand, kneel and sit when the rest of the congregation did, so it wouldn't be obvious they were tourists. At one point, the priest spoke and the man sitting next to them stood up, so they got up, too. The entire congregation broke into hearty laughter.*

*After the service they approached the priest, who spoke English, and asked him what had been so funny. The priest said he had announced a birth in the parish and had asked the father to stand up.*

# PRESBYTERY PLANNING UPDATE

*As you will be aware from previous editions of our magazine the Kirk is in the early stages of a major restructuring exercise. The outcomes of this will be significant change in the shape, size, and operations of the Church of Scotland. We will know more once the General Assembly has met later this month, and once the Plan for Presbytery is planned sometime after the end of June. In the meantime, the following extract from the report to the April meeting of Presbytery will give you the most up-to-date information about the state of play in Edinburgh.*

## **A. THE CONVERSATIONS**

Although not all of the local cluster reports have been received, the Team wished to make the following comments:

1. thank the ministers and representatives of the congregations who participated in the season of conversations. Conducting all of this on Zoom would certainly not have been anyone's first choice so we are grateful to everyone for their perseverance.
2. approaches varied, some seeking to tackle the impending shortages of ministry posts, while others considered new ways of creatively working together to carry out mission. Much work remains to be done in addressing the impending reduction in ministry posts.
3. priorities emerging from the cluster reports are mission (particularly around new housing developments), lay training, and a priority to the poor.

## **B. THE GOALPOSTS HAVE BEEN MOVED**

In the last few weeks, the Strategy Team was made aware of further new developments which will significantly change both the timeline and content of the proposed Plan.

The General Assembly in May will be asked to approve a new Act called the Presbytery Mission Plan Act 2021. Features of the New Act are as follows:

- Presbytery Mission Plans should be guided by the Five Marks of Mission.
- There will be close consultation with the Faith Nurture Forum and General Trustees in creating a Plan.
- Plans will be 5 year rolling Mission plans, to be reviewed annually; all Plans to be approved by the end of 2022.
- The Act refers to the fixed number of ministry posts which will be allocated to each Presbytery, the initial numbers to be presented in the Supplementary Report to the General Assembly 2021.
- The reduction in numbers will be more severe than previously anticipated.
- The previous 4 categories for buildings will be placed by two: to retain or dispose.
- The process of appeal will be replaced by a process of review.
- Implementation of the approved Plan is urgent to achieve the reduction to 600 posts (ministers, deacons and MDS) by 2025.

### **C. FORMULATING THE PLAN**

- i) shaped around Mission taking cognisance of what is agreed in Local Church Review reports;
- ii) sustain the commitment to a territorial ministry;
- iii) conform to the numbers of posts and timescales set by the General Assembly;
- iv) ensure that new ways of being Church are reflected in the Mission Plan;

In doing so the Presbytery will categorise each ecclesiastical building as either:

- (a) to be retained beyond the five years from the point at which the Mission Plan is approved or annually reviewed, or
- (b) to be sold, let or otherwise disposed of by a specified date which is within the five years from the point at which the Mission Plan is first approved.

It is clear that we are in a time of rapid change and seeking in local



cluster areas or within the Strategy Team to imagine ways of being church that take into account some of the losses and reductions that are coming, it is important not to lose sight of new possibilities that may also emerge. Many have expressed the need for training whether in leadership, worship leading, pioneering, discipleship, and change can be an impetus to growth. While the pattern of one minister, one congregation, one set of buildings may no longer be the norm, there are surely many gifts within congregations to be developed and put to service in mission.

## **D. POSSIBLE DELAY IN PRESENTING THE DRAFT PLAN TO PRESBYTERY**

As the Assembly approaches and has to consider a new Planning Act and numbers of ministry posts; also as the Presbytery navigates its relationship to neighbouring Presbyteries, moving towards a union with West Lothian and into conversation with Lothian and three Borders Presbyteries with the potential for doing some work on planning together; as new information may impact on what the clusters wish to say to the Team about their local area; as the General Trustees' Toolkit is now sent out to congregations to begin the process of assessing buildings; the level of uncertainty and potential for change may well mean movement in the dates of finalising a draft Plan. We trust you will bear with us through this and continue to collaborate with us. If all of this necessitates more work that impinges on bringing a draft in June the Presbytery has been forewarned of the reasons why.

## **E. PREPARING THE WAY**

Over the coming months the minister and elders will be sharing a great deal of information with each other, and the wider congregation regarding the changes and how they will affect us. As well as sharing we will be looking at ways we can enable the whole congregation to have a voice in our journey ahead.

**ALEX**



# HEALTH & SAFETY

## AT REID MEMORIAL CHURCH

***Your health and safety while at Reid Memorial Church are taken seriously.*** There is a Health and Safety Policy in place and several risk assessments have been produced to ensure that the specific hazards associated with activities are managed and reduced to a minimum. There are regular inspections of the buildings and grounds. We need your help to report any deficiencies, hazards, and damages that you may identify so that it can be rectified as soon as possible. An email address (ReidMemorial\_Fabric@outlook.com) has been set up where you can record any issues, ask questions, or seek further information. We would be grateful for your cooperation and ask you to use the email address, when possible.

All the groups who use our buildings are required to submit their own risk assessments for their specific activities. They are also required to comply with the Reid Memorial risk assessments and policies. We are currently working with all the groups who use the halls and grounds to ensure that the appropriate documentation is in place. The Kirk Session has agreed in principle to allow the buildings and grounds to reopen as the restrictions are eased. In addition, we must send the group's documents to Presbytery, to seek approval for them to use the buildings.

We have a Fire Safety risk assessment with an evacuation procedure in place. We are required to perform Fire Safety drills. You should evacuate the building using the closest exit to you and assemble on West Savile Terrace at the opposite side of the road to the church. The people on door duty will be available to offer >

> assistance, if required. We are fortunate to have four exits from the Main Sanctuary, two at the north side and two at the south side. There are several other exits in the corridors and halls, and you should make yourself aware of them. Fire extinguishers throughout the buildings are mainly situated close to the exits.

We would value your input and are happy to have a chat about any issues you may have.

**LINDA FARRER** HEALTH AND SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE [TEL 07811 697 254] **STEVIE DOUGLAS** FABRIC CONVENER

## 'OUR MARMALADE MAID'

***Katrina (Russell) has been making and selling wonderful marmalades, lemon curd, and jams for as long as we can remember in our church.*** She makes it look easy and can always rustle up more jars for special events at the church. Katrina has not let lockdown hold her back. She is making marmalade to order and can arrange delivery to your door.

That is quite a service, and do you know that Katrina takes no money for all this work? All profits from the jam-making go directly to the Reid. She was able to hand over £300 to our treasurer for sales over this last year.

Fairtrade is her other ploy, but obviously it is more difficult to trade at this time, but we wanted you to know what a STAR we have in Katrina. Enjoy that jam, and if you would like to place an order, please get in touch, either by email **kjrussell477@gmail.com** or phone her mobile **07791407787**. You can leave a message and she will get back to you to organise delivery. (Katrina is a bit low on jars so would appreciate if you could keep them for her.) Three cheers for Katrina! (See over x 2)

**SUSAN MACKAY** (FUND RAISING TEAM)

# ASCENSION DAY

## 40 DAYS WITH THE RISEN CHRIST

***40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.)***

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands - and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be. They had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles - persecution and death - and resurrection!

Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at >

> them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

## FAIRTRADE UPDATE KATRINA RUSSELL



FAIRTRADE  
FOUNDATION

***It is not feasible to order from Fairtrade at present but I am still making marmalade, jams and lemon curd.*** If anyone would like some then please get in touch, either by email **kjrussell477@gmail.com** or mobile **07791407787**. You can leave a message and I will get back to you regarding delivery. All proceeds will go to church funds. I am low on jars (especially the smaller ones) and would appreciate if you could keep them for me.

KIND REGARDS **KATRINA**



# MINISTRY

## THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

***For almost a thousand years the shape of Christian ministry in these isles has changed little.***

It was after the arrival of the Normans, as settlers, that the parish came into being. Since then, the changes have been mostly around language and governance, but the idea of some form of minister or priest in each parish, serving a specific geographical community has remained. The minister's role was to teach the Good News, celebrate the sacraments, and counsel the troubled. Society has moved on, but the expectations around ministry have barely moved. That is beginning to change, and the rate at which this is happening is accelerating.

Within the next four years around one third of the ministers of the Kirk will retire; precious few are in training or considering it. We have had a surplus of building for decades, and we cannot afford to maintain them for much longer. Our income is falling, too. The predicted shortfalls expected by 2030 have already been passed. If we do not seek alternative ways to be 'church' then the whole structure will come tumbling down in our lifetimes. I realise that statement is rather blunt, but so is reality. The Kirk of ten years' time will have less money, fewer staff, and fewer buildings. God willing, it will be a leaner and fitter church. Whatever that shape or structure the Kirk needs to adapt or die; remaining the same is not an option. >



> ***But what about ministry.*** This will change almost beyond recognition. Full-time ministries will be, in many instances, replaced by teams of well-resourced and trained local volunteers. These volunteers will take over the reins of leading on worship and pastoral care. Full-time ministry will continue to exist but in a much-changed role.

We will be educators, facilitators, and spiritual guides. We will, more often, be administrators too. Ministers will be called upon to oversee groups of parishes rather than just one or two. There will be no more routine visiting of the congregation by someone in a clerical collar; there will simply not be the time in any week to do this. In some parishes this has already happened.

Instead, locally based, lay-led, ministry teams will do much of the work in what we now know as the 'parish'. These volunteers will be trained and enabled to fulfil whatever form of ministry God is calling them to. They will be the pastors and the preachers for most of the time. But they will have back-up and resourcing from well-trained full-time staff.

The final shape of the Kirk of the future is not yet clear, neither is how it will minister to the communities of this nation. I have, though, a sense that it will begin to look more like a model of church that existed once before in our land. It will begin to look more like that which existed before the parish. That is the church of our ancient ancestors. That model of church, and potentially the model of church to come, served the people well; perhaps it may do so once more.

BLESSINGS, **ALEX**

# GRAHAM CLARK

## A TRIBUTE

***In March of this year, and without warning, we lost our dear friend and brother Graham.***

Graham was born and raised in and around Forfar. Though his school was literally over the wall from his home, he wisely used the gate for he knew his mother would see him if he took a shortcut. At intervals he would use his long socks to smuggle out his wooden ruler so as to play at sword fights

Secondary school brought other challenges. Daily, he would cycle a couple of miles, all uphill, to where he could leave his bike, before getting the bus to Forfar Academy. University beckoned, and so he was off to study history at Aberdeen. Even in youth, he showed determination, intelligence, and wisdom.

Teacher training was next, and leads us to another thread in Graham's life, attention to detail and accuracy. He had already been noticed by a young trainee teacher named Elizabeth. Now he was about to be noticed by others. One of the lecturers asked a rhetorical question that Graham answered, correcting the teacher as he went. The lecturer is said to have never asked another rhetorical question.

A career in teaching didn't suit Graham so he joined the Civil Service, in a department that dealt with historic debt. He elected to serve in an office that was short-staffed, where an history degree would be useful, and that wouldn't require him to move post every few years. Throughout his career, to enable him to carry out his role more effectively, Graham learned to read Gaelic, and studied aspects of law too. Here we see a man that was a hard worker, able and intelligent, willing to learn new things to develop himself. >



> We see, too, a man who was diligent and professional. More importantly, we see a man for whom providing a settled base for his family was more important than his career.

In retirement Graham cultivated his allotment and read, preferring politics or constitutional history books. More recently he tried fiction in a bid to more ably converse with members his elder's district. Graham was ordained as an elder in the Kirk, he was a volunteer around both the church and the Basics Bank. At one time he had been a Special Constable as he wanted to offer some kind of service to the wider community of Edinburgh. He particularly enjoyed the work he took on over the Festival as it enabled him to meet and assist folk from all over the world.

He remained with the Police until retirement, picking up a long-service medal along the way. He was a generous man, giving of his time, talents, and material resources to others. Here we see hints of a man for whom care and compassion for others was paramount. His view was that the world was not about him, but others.

There is even more to Graham. There are great things about him that we may say and share that he never would. He was a quiet and humble man, preferring to talk about almost anything other than himself. Graham thought that to speak of himself may have been deemed to be self-promotion or, worse, pride. The thing about Graham was that he always seemed to be around, there in the background, never making a fuss. Graham was a good man, who lived by his faith and who shared it through his actions. He sets an example to us all, both younger and older, an example that offers us hope.

AMEN

# FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

*It is so nice to see the spring flowers and the extra hours of daylight after what seemed like an exceptionally long winter.*

The fundraising committee are still meeting regularly by Zoom and trying to come up with more inventive ways to fund raise under current conditions. We would welcome any new ideas.

## **Reid Memorial Just Giving Web Page**

SEE WHAT YOU'VE MISSED DURING LOCKDOWN?

Spring Fair, with lovey cream tea, crafts on sale  
home baking, homemade jams, and marmalades.

Perhaps give what you have saved?

£5 = Entrance and Strawberry Tart?

£10 = Entrance, home baking, crafty gift?

Or an amount of your choice

You can donate easily via the Reid Memorial Website at  
Reid Cream Tea Event – Reid Memorial Church - Edinburgh

## **Craft items**

The committee are calling on all crafters/knitters to help make items that we can sell later in the year once we can hold our fairs again. We can supply or reimburse for any materials used. Some committee members have been making poppies and will donate to the poppy appeal after the sales of these (picture and pattern below).

### **To knit a poppy you will need:**

A pair of 4mm (US 6) needles.

Any red DK yarn.

A small black button.

**How to knit a poppy >**



> This pattern uses our standard knitting abbreviations. Tension is not important for this project.

Cast on 60 sts. using 4mm needles and red DK yarn.

Rows 1-8 (K2, P2) to end. Row 9 (K2tog) to end. [30 sts.]

Row 10 (S2kpo) to end. [10 sts.] Break off yarn, leaving a long tail.

Thread tail through remaining 10 sts. and pull tight, then fasten off yarn. Join the edges of the poppy together and sew the black button in the centre of the poppy. You can use any colour of wool and might be nice to make other flowers adapting the pattern.

## **GRAHAM CLARK**

The committee were much saddened at the death of Graham Clark, a loyal and dependable worker who had helped the Fund-Raising Committee for many, events over the years, although he was not actually a member of the committee. We shall miss him and his help very much.

## **MARCH FUNDRAISING RESULTS**

Our first fund raiser for 2021 was a quiz and the quiz winner and answers are below.

### ***Quiz results***

Thank you to everyone who took part, and we are delighted to announce the winner was Jennifer Lowe who received a lovely plant. Everyone got the correct answers, but Jennifer submitted the winning limerick:

*There was a committee at Reid.*

*Whose members were all dressed in tweed,*

*they were proud of their style,*

*and twirled down the aisle,*

*urging others to follow their lead.*

Well done Jenny.

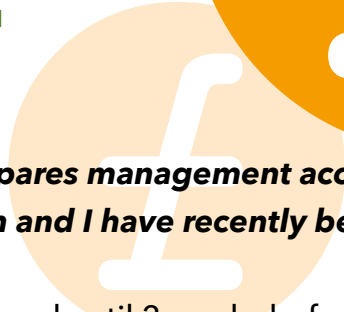
## **Quiz answers**

1. How many dimples has a British golf ball have? **330**
2. Where did the Great fire of London start on 2nd Sept 1666. a **bakery**
3. Where was Napoleon Bonaparte born? **Corsica**
4. In which decade did the potato famine strike Ireland? **1840s**
5. Who led the Scottish army to victory over the English at the battle of Bannockburn in 1314? **Robert the Bruce**
6. Who was the last tsar of Russia? **Nicholas II**
7. The city of La Paz in Bolivia is safe from fire because of what? **Too high an altitude, not enough air for burning.**
8. By law, what is banned in Japanese restaurants? **b) Tipping**
9. In whose garden does Peter Rabbit accidentally leave his coat?  
**Mr McGregor's**
10. There are three native species of snake in the UK: **smooth snake, adder, and grass snake.**
11. What name is given to baby hedgehogs: c) **hoglets.**
12. Which is the biggest Island in the world? **Greenland**
13. What is the name of the Rugby World Cup?? **Web Ellis Cup**
14. The Gaelic for whisky is Uisge Beatha. What is its literal meaning? **Water of Life**
15. How many golf courses does Scotland have? **550**
16. From the castle to the palace in Edinburgh, how many closes winds and courts. **84.**
17. What is the second smallest country in the world? **Monaco**
18. Where is the Bermuda Triangle? **North Atlantic Ocean**
19. What colour are aircraft 'black boxes'? **Bright Orange**
20. Which Scottish county is smallest by area **Clackmannanshire 141 square km**

*Many thanks to Anne Black who sent this photo showing some of the flowers decorating the church on Easter Sunday.*



# FROM THE FINANCE TEAM



***Our Treasurer, Judith, prepares management accounts for the finance team every month and I have recently been reviewing those to 31st March.***

Sadly, with the church closed until 2 weeks before Easter our Open offerings are down even compared with last year. Overall, our offerings ( at less than £17,000 ) are down 20% compared to the same period last year. Covid of course has a lot to do with this as we were open last year until almost the end of March. But there's a clear lesson - can those people who donate via the weekly collection as opposed to standing order or freewill envelopes please remember that they may be donating less to the Reid when not able to attend. Fundraising is at rock bottom of course and Hall Lets is £0 for the period. Thankfully, Wilton Road and Church House net rentals are holding up - broadly the same as last year.

So in summary things are not looking rosy, but with the Church able to reopen I am confident that the generosity of our members and visitors will enable our donation income to shortly revert to more usual levels.

Many charities are suffering at present because they cannot put on major physical events nor have can-rattling or bag packing style activities. Yet many people are actually better off than pre-covid days. People on a fixed income have the same resources >

> but less to spend it on. People whose job is safe are in a similar position. Much the same income but less outgoings. So, with little opportunity to spend our disposable income on holidays, eating out, theatre, cinema etc - even fuel for our cars, you would think that charitable donations would be going up.

And at the Reid I would ask you to review your level of giving. If covid has adversely affected your finances then of course we would not ask for more. But if you are one of the fortunate many with more cash in the bank at the end of each month, I'd ask you to consider whether you could increase your already generous commitment to The Reid.

**ALASDAIR SEALE** FINANCE CONVENER

## BE KIND TO EACH OTHER

*'And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.'* (Matthew 10:42)

During the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been thousands of shining examples up and down the country of people going the extra mile to help the elderly, vulnerable and those at risk. The helpers have been shopping, cooking meals, making regular telephone calls, and checking that needs are being met. We must sincerely hope that these acts of kindness will continue well beyond the coronavirus outbreak.

Simple acts of kindness are so important in cementing the fabric of our society. Some years ago, this thought inspired the following poem:

## *A Brighter Tomorrow*

*There is much we can do just to brighten  
This world of all take and no give,  
There's a great deal that we can contribute  
Through the everyday lives that we live.*

*By supporting one's elderly neighbours  
Or through lending a hand in some way  
It's by taking a bunch of spring flowers  
To someone to brighten their day.*

*It's by sparing a few precious hours  
In the service of those most in need  
It's all about setting a standard  
And trying to give others a lead*

*It's the way that we tend to treat others  
And help and aid folks in distress  
It's the care and assistance we offer  
That will set us apart from the rest.*

*The choice that we face is quite simple  
The rewards plain for all men to see  
'As you did all of this to my brother  
Then' said Christ, 'you did it to Me.'*

BY **COLIN HAMMACOTT**

The next issue of **REIDON...** will be June 2021. Please send Linda any articles or notices by 22nd May - see page 2 for contact details.



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