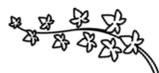


Here is a test to find whether your mission  
on earth is finished,



If you are alive, it isn't.



May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ  
And the Love of God  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
Be with us all evermore. Amen  
(2 Corinthians 13)



## Contacts

To contact our Minister-  
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Many thanks to everyone who has made contributions to this  
edition of the Printout.

If you have anything that you would like us to include in the next,  
please contact Jane Eccles - phone 720 438

The Parish of Ardchattan [www.ardchattanchurch.org.uk](http://www.ardchattanchurch.org.uk)

# February 2021 (Lent)



# Print Out ...

A round up of news,  
information, views and a bit of fun.



Scottish Charity Number SC000680



The Church of Scotland

## Welcome to our February Printout ...



How wonderful it is to have lengthening days again, to be leaving dark winter behind us, even if we still have cold days ahead. Bulbs are releasing their energy to grow their leaves and flowers. Many green shoots can be seen in our church garden, the camellia buds are starting to swell and lambs' tails catkins are starting to develop on the hazel twigs again round about.

With the main repair work of our church complete for now, our Kirk Session is just meeting once a month on Zoom. If you have anything that you would like us to discuss or a question to ask, do contact Allison or any of the members.

Since the last Printout was posted we have started a 'Coffee zoom' on Sundays at 12 noon. So far we've had 6-12 households joining in. It's a great chance to see familiar faces and have an informal chat. Rea & Maggie sometimes join us from Glasgow as does Allison (currently in Guernsey) as well as folk across the Parish and in Oban. If you might like to join in do let Jane know - we'll include you in the 'coffee zoom link list' so that you can say 'hello' any Sunday that you like. We all look forward to meeting again in the church as soon as the restrictions allow.

We are now approaching the season of Lent. By the time this reaches you we may already be in those 40 days, the days when we remember Jesus being alone, in the wilderness.

Some of us will be missing the Guides' Soup Lunch, always a good selection of soup and baking, good company and helpful folk to wait on us! We can look forward to contributions from our Uniformed Organisations in the 'Thinking Day' Worship online on the 21st. (Remember we can provide DVD recordings of our services if you can't watch 'online', just let us know.)

In this edition of the Printout we have some notes on Fairtrade Fortnight and the World Day of Prayer which we would usually be marking this month.

Our faithful Scottish Quiz masters have taken a change in location in this edition!



## Not The Scottish Quiz



1. What is absent from an aseptic room?
2. What kind of zodiac sign is Capricorn? Earth, Air, Fire or Water?
3. Which romantic novelist wrote the Tilly Trotter series of novels?
4. Elizabeth David is best known as a writer on what subject?
5. Which river is regarded as the most sacred to Hindus?
6. Who was the British Prime Minister when Elizabeth 11 acceded to the throne in 1952?
7. Also called the Giant Gum, what is Australia's tallest tree?
8. Which rock star named himself after a hearing aid shop?
9. Who is Noddy's best friend?
10. Battle Abbey was built to commemorate which battle?
11. Which of these buildings featured as Hoggwarts School in the Harry Potter films? Alnwick Castle, Chatsworth House, Hardwick Hall or Fountains Abbey?
12. Where would a Stevedore be most likely to work?
13. At which winter Olympics did Torvill and Dean win Gold? Lake Placid, Sarajevo, Lillehammer or Albertville?
14. Which Dickens character always wears a wedding dress?
15. What name is given to the practice of passing off someone else's work as your own?
16. Which of these bishops is not automatically a member of the House of Lords? Winchester, Durham, London or Salisbury.
17. Which South West London borough was the Coronation place of 7 Saxon Kings? Richmond, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kingston or Wandsworth.
18. In which of these cities is there a district called Kings Cross? Montreal, Sydney, Washington or Wellington.
19. Who was the Babylonian goddess of Love and War? Ashnan, Mithras, Ishtar or Aya?
20. Saint Augustine, the oldest city in the USA, is in which state? South Carolina, Virginia, New Hampshire or Florida.

*Answers to our January Scottish Quiz -*

- 1)Cunard, 2)Aberdeen,3)Sainsburys, 4)General Custer, 5)Deep Sea World, 6)To a Mouse, 7)Moira Shearer, 8)Rob Roy, 9)Fisherman, 10)Loch Dhu, 11)June, 12)John Buchan,13)River Spey,14)Fresh water source, 15)Gruinard, 16)Ivanhoe, 17)Britain's shortest river, 18)Poison, 19)Hawick, 20) North Sea (oil fields)

During Lent, some folk 'give something up', some undertake to read a particular book, maybe their Bible, if they don't already read it regularly.

Here is a copy of another 'vintage' Bible puzzle which you may like to try. Some books are old friends, some may be less familiar.



Can you find thirty (30) books of the Bible in the following paragraph?

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a man in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it and passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his brother, John's boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a journalist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. A local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus. There really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.



## From our Minister - A Story of Twelve Snowdrops

So- here we are: Wedged in between two ancient Christian "holy days": Candlemas (2 February) and Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent: 17 February). And this brings us to a story of snowdrops: Twelve snowdrops, in fact.

Snowdrops have always been the symbol of Candlemas. And right now, I'm looking out of the window and I see this year's new snowdrops; slowly edging their way, upwards, through the grass. A story about snowdrops, I've heard long ago, flows gently back into the windmills of my mind:

There was a little boy in Warwick; whose dad was a minister. Their church was a massive old building; looking more intimidating than welcoming. So, the boy had a plan: He thought a wee garden, right in front of the old building, would freshen things up a bit.

Now, he had a special talent: He had green fingers. Every plant he touched, simply burst into life. On this occasion, he carefully took a couple of snowdrop bulbs from his own garden and transplanted them into the church garden. This was late January and two weeks later, the first snowdrops appeared. Suddenly, the old church looked so much better!

But soon, disaster struck: Someone had walked right through his wee garden and trampled the young snowdrops into a tangled mess. They were dead and gone, he thought. His heart was broken. That year, he didn't try to plant anything else again.

The next year, just at the start of Lent, he noticed an astonishing sight in front of the church: Twelve beautiful snowdrops raised their heads above the grass- exactly where he had planted them the previous year. Although the plants were thrashed, the bulbs still remained alive, under the ground. And now they burst into life!

This reminds me of the season of Lent...

It's easy to focus on abstinence, repentance and the hardships we intend to endure. But we shouldn't forget that it is also the season of Light. And Life. For the word "Lent" comes from the old Dutch word "Lente"; which means Spring.

Yes- we should reflect on the suffering of Christ; as terrible as it was. But we should never forget the Light and the Life he carried inside him. The same bulb of life that God has placed into the snowdrops. And that is the magic of Spring: Winter never has the last word.

And that, in my mind, applies to Covid19 and lockdown as well. Spring may seem to lie buried under the ground, but one day, those bulbs will burst into life again...

## Worship during the pandemic, from Charlie Bavington

The last 12 months has forced us to change so many important things. Not least of these is worship.

When lockdown hit last March we were not prepared for 'broadcasting' worship online. Luckily Willem's brother Louis knew what to do and we were able to join his services for a few weeks.

This gave Willem and the Kirk Session time to work out how we could provide worship while being banned from using our Churches. My role has been the 'tech geek' who puts the videos together.

While this would be many people's idea of torture for me it has been a joyous serendipity. All week, every week my 'inbox' fills up with new pictures, videos, prayers, readings, and hymns. I then have the challenge of putting these together to match Willem's or Aileen's order of service, and getting the service uploaded to YouTube by Saturday night. I can't explain why there is so much pleasure in creating our online services but it is a gift from God made so easy by all contributor's creativity, thoughtful words and diligence.

I look forward to the day when we can worship side-by-side in our Churches, but until then will gratefully produce our weekly videos.

Thank you everyone and thank you God!

PS if anyone else wants to become part of the video editing team please just ask.



## Fairtrade Fortnight - February 22nd - March 7th

Check out their online festival!

This year the Foundation will be highlighting the growing challenges that climate change brings to the farmers and workers in communities Fairtrade works with.

They point out that the facts are straightforward. Farmers and workers in countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia and Honduras, those who have done the least to contribute to climate change, are disproportionately affected.

The climate crisis is an immediate and ever-increasing threat and those in climate vulnerable countries are already seeing its impacts from droughts and crop disease to floods, heatwaves and shrinking harvests. With the emergence of the global COVID pandemic, the challenges that farmers face now are bigger than ever before with falling commodity prices and widespread shocks reverberating along our global supply chains.

## World Day of Prayer - Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

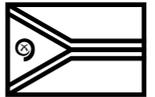


World Day of Prayer is an International, ecumenical, prayer movement. It was started by Christian women in North America in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, its purpose being to join in prayer and action for peace and justice, with an emphasis on the needs of women and children and how best to support them..The 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of March each year is designated as World Day of Prayer with the service now held in more than 180 countries and in over 1000 languages.

In Ardchattan our Church folk have taken part in the shortened version of the service in Ford Spence Court for many years, along with the residents and members of various other denominations. The teas and chat that followed were always good too!

In addition to worship, there is additional interest in the geography and social geography of each country. How many of us – or how few – knew anything about Suriname when the programme was prepared there a few years ago? Well, the late Elsie Kennedy did! In some ways they are ahead of us, having banned the use of plastic bags in 2018!

This year, the programme has been prepared by women in the Republic of Vanuatu which is in the Pacific Ocean approximately 1000 miles East of Australia. Up until it gained independence in 1980, Vanuatu was called the **New Hebrides**, having been given this name by Captain James Cook who charted all 82 volcanic islands, 65 of which are inhabited, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. He thought they resembled our Hebrides! The Islands are prone to natural disasters - cyclones, floods and volcanic eruptions.



The theme of this year's worship is '**Build on a strong foundation**'. For the Ni-Vanuatu, the relationship with land is at the heart of their identity and spiritual strength: "land to a Ni-Vanuatu is what a mother is to a baby". Women form only 40% of the labour force, and the rights of women could be vastly improved if gender equality issues were addressed. (More information can be found online.)



Normally each year, donations raised in Scotland are given to charities of the country preparing the materials, the Scottish Bible Society, Feed the Minds and the International and European work of WDP. Last year £24,000 was disbursed in Scotland.