

Canonbie United Parish Church

# *On-line* **CANONBIE CHRONICLES**

Edition 45

[www.canonbiechurch.org.uk](http://www.canonbiechurch.org.uk)

Summer 2020

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## **Our Mission Statement:**

*We are here to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and further God's kingdom; to teach, encourage and nurture all believers; to respond to human needs by loving service; to seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation, and to care for God's creation.*

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## **OUR BUILDINGS MAY BE CLOSED**

We held our last worship in Canonbie United Parish Church on Sunday 15th March.

Do we miss it? Yes, we do.....

.....just like we miss meeting our friends and family and sharing a meal in our favourite pub or restaurant. We miss seeing our Christian family, chatting over coffee and lovely home baking in the Café and worshipping God together.

And it's that last bit I want to talk about. Do we really miss that hour on a Sunday? Or can we worship our Heavenly Father in so many other different ways. We've had to do things differently and will it be the same when the lockdown is over? I am sure I am not alone in enjoying the break from the treadmill of planning weekly worship in the well-worn "hymn-prayer" sandwich pattern provided for what appears to be an ever-dwindling number of people.

Amongst them are the people who look after our building, volunteer in the Café, attend countless Church meetings and work hard to find a new minister for us. I, for one, am enjoying this change in producing Chronicles. As there will be no Communion at the beginning of June, I have no deadline to meet to distribute this edition to the Elders to take out to the Church membership (but it is being released at roughly the same time). At the click of a mouse it will be sent out to over 40 people. Lockdown has brought forward an initiative for providing Chronicles online for those who want it delivered that way. We have fewer Elders to deliver Chronicles and to carry out the visiting tradition that goes with it.

All this sounds bleak doesn't it? But during the lockdown we've tried to ensure those we know who are alone are not left alone too long. Alongside all the other support that's here in Canonbie, we Christians are alive in this community. We are living out our faith. And we are alive without being in the building.

Our Supper Group have been doing WhatsApp chat sessions and our [Facebook page](#) and [website](#) have been alive with news of what continues to happen in our local and national Church.

There is plenty out there to keep us going.

First of all I'd point you to the Church of Scotland's own online Church: [Sanctuary First](#), led by a former Moderator of the General Assembly, the Very Rev Albert Bogle. There are daily readings; a weekly review; Christian music jam sessions and live Sunday worship at 3pm. If you are feeling adventurous, you can join the Sanctuary First Coffee Shop on weekdays 11am to 12:30pm and meet people direct via the Zoom app. In particular, I would point you towards [Albert's blog](#) which challenges the Church to consider its future in this digital age.

For lively worship online turn to [All Souls, Langham Place](#) in London (recommended by Daan & Leoniek).

Steve and Chris Fulcher, who were with us in Canonbie and Liddesdale, 2009-2013 have prepared some online worship for their congregations in [South Kintyre](#)

The Church of Scotland website has been listing all those congregations that are providing [online recordings of worship](#). Locally, there are some Dumfries, Galashiels and Hawick.

I am sure I don't need to tell you about the services that are broadcast on radio. Amongst those I find myself listening to are [New Every Sunday](#), BBC Scotland, 7:30am every Sunday, and [Sunday Worship](#), 8:10am, BBC Radio 4. Links provided here take you to the BBC Sounds website.

On Saturday 16th May, the Rev. Martin Fair from Arbroath was installed as the new Moderator General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in the Assembly Hall, Edinburgh in the absence of the annual General Assembly. The event was broadcast live on the Church of Scotland website and on Facebook and you can see a recording of it [here](#). 'Heart & Soul', the Church's annual festival of music, arts and heritage, that usually takes place in Princes Street Gardens was staged online live the next day. You can see a recording of it [here](#).

Click on all the blue bits underlined and you should be able to go straight to the sites I have listed.

After this is over, will we return to the same? Or will the Coronavirus crisis be the catalyst for permanent change that is needed in the Church of Scotland. There are plenty of references in the links I've provided that indicate that the way we do things will not be the same

But we all value the need to meet regularly and physically as a worshipping community for God.

In Canonbie there's no absence of passion to make our Church an iconic landmark speaking much about our faith. We value the freedom to meet in a building that is 200 years old next year.

But, my friends, the days of Church being 1hr on a Sunday are long gone. As are the days just for 'hatching, matching and despatching'.

This is the first of the digital versions of 'Chronicles'. Paper copies will still be distributed and we will continue to post them on notice boards across the parish. Please pass this e-version on and let me have the email address of anyone who would like to receive their Chronicles online. I will ensure their names are added to a distribution list used solely for this purpose. Likewise, if you do not want any more emails like this one then please let me know.

## BUT THE CHURCH IS ALIVE

Yes! we are.....

Take a look at this moving [UK Blessing](#)

Anthony Lane  
Elder

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Canonbie Chronicles is published quarterly. You can find out details of all Church events by looking at our website, [www.canonbiechurch.org.uk](http://www.canonbiechurch.org.uk); on Facebook: Canonbie and Liddesdale Parish Churches, or on notices distributed widely around the village and in Church.

For any enquiries about baptisms, weddings and funerals, or any other parish and pastoral needs, please contact the Session Clerks at e-mail: [canonbiechurch@gmail.com](mailto:canonbiechurch@gmail.com) or 013873 25255

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