

Fri 18th Dec

CONNECT

WEEKLY CHURCH UPDATE



CHRYSTON
PARISH CHURCH



Welcome

Welcome to the new number edition of our weekly update. This edition will run through to January so please keep hold of it.

What's On

Day	Event (Small Group Week)	Time	Location
Fri 18th	Work Party (Weather Dependent)	9.30am	Church Building
Sat 19th			
Sun 20th	Morning Worship (Mark 9 v 38-41) Coffee & Chat Evening Worship (Carols of Hope)	10.30am 11.50 7pm	Online & Building Zoom YouTube & Vimeo
Mon 21st	Hub Cafe Reflective Service	10am-11.30 7pm	In Building Online & Building
Tue 22nd	Hub Cafe Reflective Service	10am-11.30 7pm	In Building Online & Building
Wed 23rd	Hub Cafe Reflective Service	10am-11.30 7pm	In Building Online & Building
Thu 24th	Christmas Eve Family Watch-night Service	6.30pm 11.30pm	YouTube & Vimeo YouTube & Vimeo
Fri 25th	Christmas Day Service		YouTube, Vimeo, Zoom
Sat 26th			
Sun 27th	Morning Worship Coffee & Chat (No Evening Worship)	10.30am 11.50	
Wed 30th	Engage Gathered Prayer	7.30pm	
Thu 31st	Hogmanay Family Quiz	7pm-8pm	Zoom
Sun 3rd	Morning Worship Coffee & Chat Evening Worship	10.30am 11.50 7pm	Online & Building Zoom YouTube & Vimeo
Wed 6th	Engage Gathered Prayer	7.30pm	Zoom
Thu 7th	Morning Coffee & Chat	10.30am	Zoom
Sun 10th	Morning Worship Coffee & Chat Evening Worship	10.30am 11.50 7pm	Online & Building Zoom YouTube & Vimeo
Wed 13th	Engage Gathered Prayer Engage: Jeremiah	7.30pm 8pm	Zoom YouTube & Vimeo
Thu 14th	Morning Coffee & Chat	10.30am	Zoom

Zoom Links

ID: 968 847 6326 Password: 4188





Worship In The Building

If you have already indicated a desire to worship in the building there is no need to contact us and Jude will make contact to alert those whose spaces have been booked for the upcoming Sunday. If you would like to start worshipping in the building please contact Mark. The services will continue to be streamed on YouTube, Vimeo and Facebook. Telephone service 0141 280 6900

On Sun 20th in the morning X-Groups will be on with our Young Folks going straight into their activities.

If you are intending to attend in the building for the reflective services please get in touch with Mark by Sunday 20th of Dec.



Engage

Gathered prayer will continue on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm and it would be great if you were able to join. The Wednesday teaching times for Jeremiah will resume on Wednesday 13th of January with small groups resuming the week beginning 18th of January.



Hogmanay Family Quiz

There won't be the normal Hogmanay Family party this year but we will be hosting one online with several of our younger folks taking charge. Just log onto zoom at 7pm and we will see you then.

Growing Young

A huge thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the the Growing Young Questionnaire. The questionnaire is now completed. If you would like a copy please email Mark or you can find it on the church website. The growing Young team will continue working away with how we process the responses and what action points can come from them.



Hub Cafe

The Hub Cafe will be open on Monday 21st, Tuesday 22nd, Wednesday 23rd from 10am-11.30am. It will be serving hot drinks and cakes with the cost covered by the Hub. All the normal Covid regulations will apply so please remember your mask and adhere to social distancing regulations. The cafe will be in the main church space so that we can keep distancing between tables and it will be table service. **The regulations allow you to meet with one other household but not more than six people. We must remain 2m away from those at other tables and when not sitting at a table you must wear a mask unless you have an exemption.** Please enter through the red doors, (Unless you can't use the steps then the glass doors) use the hand sanitisers and follow the signs. Track and trace will also be in operation. You don't need to book but if the tables are filled we cannot squeeze you in. If you want to check on the morning if its full call the church mobile on 07933 142 328. Our hope is that if this goes well we will be able to continue in January and when revaluations change reopen the Late Night Cafe.



Meeting The Church Family

Interview With-Margaret Rodger

Well reader, welcome to this week's article. I hope you are ready for this. It has been a challenging project for me to tackle, allow me to explain. My interviewee this week is someone that I am sure many, if not all, will know and recognise. This week I had the delight of interviewing Margaret Rodger. As I am sure you can imagine it was not a struggle to connect with her, quite the opposite. As you can imagine, it was not that there was nothing spoken of, nothing to work with, again, quite the opposite. All of these wonderful conditions were met and surpassed within our interview chat, and there lies part of the challenge I face this week.

I find myself sitting at my table with my laptop open in front of me and Temari (my cat) on my lap, just as I do every week, only this week I am having to make a very conscious effort to remember that this article is for all of us to feel connected and loved, and although there was nothing but love in our chat, I am very conscious that there is so very much more to Margaret than the gloriously contagious laugh and her hilarious storytelling. When the interview had come to an end Margaret wished me luck making sense of our chat, my reply was that I could already see a theme emerging and was looking forward to writing this piece. I find it useful to allow myself a bit of time between interview and writing. It enables me to process our interaction, what has been spoken of, and what was being said, how it felt in the moment and how that may have changed on reflection. Through this process I have realised that depending my focus, there is the risk that I could produce either a very reflective and thoughtful piece based on Margaret's faith and its importance to

her this year, or an article that brought the hilarity, laughter and joy that is such a big part of who Margaret is and how she connects with us. My challenge is to bring you both aspects of Margaret without writing a novel. I suppose it would be more a short story as I have a deadline to meet, which I am aware is getting closer, so I had better just jump right in.



For those reading that may not already know Margaret, or have heard the name but struggle to match it to a face, here is my clumsy attempt to bring her into the light for you. If you have attended a service within Chryston church prior to lockdown, you may have spotted Margaret doing church welcome, or serving tea. She has worked within the creche, tiny tunes and our summer holiday clubs. When she is not engaged in one of these roles she will normally be found either having a quiet chat with someone, providing support and care or in an animated discussion full of laughter. You don't need to be that close by to know the latter is happening.

Margaret lives with her treasured companion Neville. Neville is her 9.5 year old tortoise. He is a creature of few words but is always happy to pop his wee head out and listen to Margaret's news, share in her joys and challenges. She has two grown up children, Craig and Jenny. Jenny has voiced her concern

that her Mum might actually expect Neville to reply to her one day. Margaret has defended Nevilles capacity to understand her, as Jenny feels his head is way too small to contain enough brain capacity to communicate. Quality rather than quantity. He may have a small brain, but man it's a quality brain. We laughed at the idea of a wee tiny echoing high pitch voice coming from within his shell in answer to her greeting.



Throughout the past year, through lockdown and various levels of restrictions, like many, Margaret has continued to work. Now, I had made an assumption or was it that I had not actually completed the thought and therefore had not appreciated that working through the pandemic didn't mean there were less changes to your day to day life. Margaret works within the NHS as part of the admin team working within children's clinics in North Lanarkshire. No longer being face to face with patients and families, Margaret and her colleague faced the challenge of trying to find their role within the unfamiliar environment of the offices. Margaret reflected that as challenging as this was, she feels that being forced to find a different way of supporting the nurses and the service has enabled her to feel more part of the whole team.



At the start of lockdown Margaret agreed with Craig and Jenny that it might be too difficult to see each other and not be able to hug etc, and as it was not going to be long, they would not meet up. In the end she did not see Craig for about 6 weeks and Jenny for almost 9 weeks. That shift came for them when Margaret took her lawn mower to Craigs house. She knew he was needing one and was going to put it in his garden and then just chap his door. When he opened the door and saw her standing there he was overcome and cried. Margaret cried. They could not hug or touch each other and they cried. They agreed that safe socially distant garden visits were needed from then on.

Margaret spoke of the loss of feeling connected with people through lockdown. She described missing people, simply being with people. She misses her dancing that she loves. She described the joy it brings her to dance and how it just makes her smile from the inside. The music, the joyous movement, the connection with those she shares the music and dances with, the feeling of belonging and being part of something together.

At several points throughout our chat, between the laughter and jokes, Margarets focus was brought back to God, a few times she stated "God goes before us". She spoke of her early faith and her struggle with coming to terms with bad and painful things still happening in her life even though she had God in her life. She described clinging to God through the challenges and growing in faith through the painful situations, by relying more on HIm and not on herself. God can use every circumstance for good.

She spoke of her decision to take redundancy from her previous job, which she had been in since she was 17. She knew she wanted a change and began

applying for jobs as the time for her to leave drew near. She had no idea if she was going to be able to get another job and worried that she would be thought of as too old to retrain. On her last day she cried as she drove home. She was going to miss the people, her friends from work, but she was also unsure and scared about having made the wrong choice. When she arrived home, she found a letter waiting for her. It was inviting her for an interview for a job. She described how much this steadied her and settled fears and doubts. She was so excited about the news that she just had to tell someone before she burst, so she ran upstairs and told Neville all about it.

Her interview went really well but she was not successful in getting the job. For the next few months, she did holiday club, went on holiday and she danced. During this time Margaret also had a family bereavement. After 4 months Margaret was contacted by the manager that had interviewed her and offered her the job. Due to circumstances the successful candidate was no longer able to accept the job, and they offered it to Margaret. Looking back Margaret reflected that she really had needed those months to rest, process what was happening in her life and to be ready to move into the next phase. She stated that she had no idea that she needed it but God did, and he provided it for her.



Margaret spoke of God providing us with exactly what we need to overcome whatever our challenges are. She described her process and challenges with loneliness. She stated that for her it is a change of mindset through God that helps her through the hard days. During lockdown she would go for her walk alone and thank God for the little everyday blessings that were all around her that are so easily forgotten. The beauty of the day, her health, the feeling of refreshing and release she had when she was out walking and the blessings of the basics in life being met, shelter, safety, food and love. She stated that having faith and God in your heart doesn't take away the bad days, but he keeps you moving through them. When we are going through something we are not stuck, we are not bogged down and static. With movement there is growth and we grow in faith and understanding through our difficulties with God as our shield and guide. She spoke of the strength and comfort she gets from many of the Psalms but particularly Psalms 23 and 139. The picture of God guiding us to still waters, and through the dark valley, he is with us throughout, we are not alone. The fact that he knows us so completely, from before we were born, every fibre of us is known and his plan for us is complete and perfect. He holds us up when we cannot stand and he guides our steps when we cannot see.



Margaret's prayer requests are that Jenny and Craig and their partners come to faith. That their hearts and minds are open and their eyes and ears are ready to hear and see God's call and their need for him in their lives.

For Margaret to have grown in faith and understanding through her experiences of the past year. For her to feel more confident and able to talk to others about God and Jesus in a natural and relaxed way. To be able to share the

good news with others in a way that is accessible for them to hear. That God provides the opportunity to share and the wisdom to know the best way to communicate in each circumstance.

When I started this article I had a little competition going on in my head. You see, some articles take longer to write than others and likewise some interviews take longer than others. I was curious to see which was going to take the longest to complete, this article or the interview it is based on. You see, as you can imagine, with both Margaret and I enjoying a good chat, the interview took a bit longer than the average, which is up to an hour. We were just short of 2.5 hours chatting and laughing before we realised the time. Part of me wanted to be able to say that it had been quicker to write it, but alas it wasn't, as it has taken me 3 hours. I wonder if I have dilly dallied and waffled for that very reason.



Thank You

As a church family we really miss being together and look forward in anticipation of changes coming as the vaccines begin to be rolled out.

Despite all the frustrations of the last year I want to say thank you to all who have expressed love to the church family through the giving of time, talents and money. There has been much good done in the last year as care, love and compassion have been shown not just in words but in action. In many ways Making Big Church Small has been a natural instinct as people sought to keep in contact with each other.

There are many challenges that lie ahead so please keep in contact with us. We will have got some things wrong and where we have its absolutely ok to let us know. It's the only way these can be rectified and mended.

The message of the angels was one of good news and great joy and we look forward to celebrating all that it means in the coming week. We also take the truth of our Immanuel, our God with us into the coming year and because of him as the angel said to Mary we don't need to be afraid.

Contacts

Pastoral: 07731 737 377 or 07933 142 328

Website: www.chrystonparishchurch.co.uk

WhatsApp: Text Your Name and Request to join to 07731 737 377

FaceBook: Search for Chryston Church Family

Email: mmalcolm@churchofscotland.org.uk

Church Treasurer 07766 682 656 or isamac_5@hotmail.com



Daily Readings

Praying The Gospel: ACTS

CHRYSTON
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Each day there is a short passage to read.
There's also a passage to read in preparation for Jeremiah at Engage.
As you read ask yourself these four questions.

What in the passage is there something to...

- A**dore God...where do you see his Glory
- C**onfess...cause you to say sorry/repent
- T**hank...Express Gratitude
- S**upplication...Ask Him

Date	Passage	Date	Passage
18th	Luke 2 v 8-21	1st	Psalm 1
19th	Luke 2 v 22-32	2nd	Psalm 2
20th	Luke 2 v 36-40	3rd	Psalm 3
21st	2 Corinthians 8 v 1-7	4th	Psalm 4
22nd	2 Corinthians 8 v 8-15	5th	Psalm 5
23rd	Isaiah 9 v 1-2	6th	Psalm 6
24th	Isaiah 9 v 6	7th	Psalm 7
25th	John 14 v 1-7	8th	Psalm 8
26th	John 14 v 15-24	9th	Psalm 9
27th	John 15 v 7-17	10th	Psalm 10
28th	Matthew 28 v 16-20	11th	1 Timothy 1 v 1-11
29th	Luke 24 v 36-53	13th	1 Timothy 1 v 12-20
30th	Revelation 1 v 1-8	14th	1 Timothy 2 v 1-15
31st	Matthew 6 v 5-15		

Don't close your Bible yet because in listening to His voice we find our own.
Take the things you have learned from the reading and then use them to help you pray.

- What does God want you to Adore him for?
- What do you need to Confess to him?
- What causes you to give Thanks?
- What do you need to Ask him for?

Each day try and pray for something national, something local, something in your family, something in the church and something in your own life.