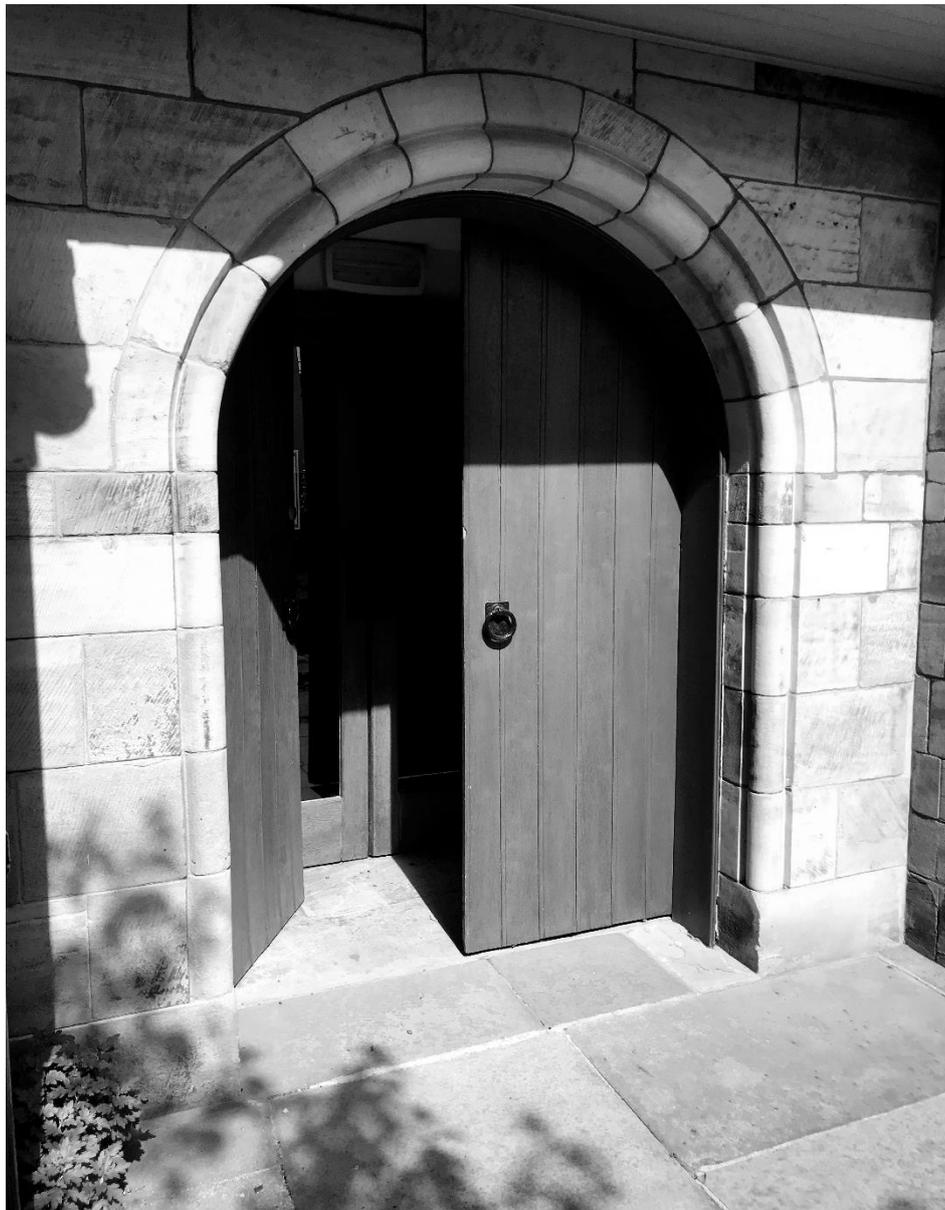


St Leonard's and Cameron Magazine Supplement UNLOCKING THE DOORS - AUGUST 2020



St Leonard's Parish Church of Scotland Congregation No: SC013586
Cameron Parish Church of Scotland Scottish Charity No: SC05565

View from the Manse

Dear Friends,

What did you miss most in those days and weeks of lockdown? It's one of the positives to come out of this strange time we've been living through: a new awareness of the things that matter to us. Things like the freedom to go where we want, when we want; to spend time with family; to meet a friend for coffee or a pint.

Those are certainly among the things I missed, but there were others, like the slow drive up to Cameron on a Sunday and the dash back to St. Leonard's; seeing people at the door of the church; saying the Lord's Prayer together. I've missed visiting. I've missed meetings (never thought I'd write those words). I've missed choosing the hymns and preparing the Order of Service...

I've missed Cameron and St. Leonard's. I've missed you; the young and the old and the in between and all that we share. No matter how good the technology - and there's no doubt that technology has allowed us to continue to worship together although we're apart and to support and encourage one another - it can't replace the togetherness that is at the heart of who we are and what we share as Christians.

So I think that's what I've missed most through these sixteen weeks and months of Sundays; the togetherness of our congregations, and as we plan to re-open that's what I'm looking forward to renewing most, and I'm sure I'm not alone in that.

However, if the doors of our churches are to reopen, and remain open, it's also that togetherness that we need to draw upon now. More of our membership, more of you and our friends in the community, will need to support what we need to do. I know there are some, perhaps many, who want only for things to go back to the way they were. But that is exactly what cannot happen. We cannot afford to be a spectator sport where a small number keep the show on the road. We will need new volunteers when the time comes, and our finances, which have taken a severe hit, will need new money not simply to get us back to where we were, but to move us onward to where we need to be. *(cont'd on page 3)*

View from the Manse (continued from page 2)

That all this will be a challenge, I know; but that we can do it, I have no doubt, as long as we work together, because, along with God's presence giving us the determination, the flexibility and the compassion that we will need, it's togetherness that will get us through.

Grace and Peace to you and yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Munn', written in a cursive style.

To Anyone Who Has Done Anything

Many people across both congregations, in so many different ways have been working away in difficult circumstances to ensure worship with words and music, pastoral care, the Church's IT, the Church's administration, the Church's finances, and the Church's property have been kept going. Many have gone the extra mile to help and support friends and neighbours; people in our Church family and beyond. Emails of encouragement have been sent; phones have provided news; shopping has been done; prescriptions have been collected; dogs have been walked. Senior office bearers have been making sure all the necessary legal, financial and planning issues are being dealt with on time. People have been trying to work out what needs to be done for the future, including facing some tough decisions. People have prayed like never before. So, as we continue to move towards reopening, to everyone who has played a part, to everyone who has done anything to help anyone get through this time...

THANK YOU!

Cameron Kirk will remain closed until the middle of September. This decision has not been taken lightly. However, Cameron faces its own particular challenges in reopening, and these will take time to address. Cameron's Kirk Session is meeting on Wednesday 9 September to explore and decide upon a possible date. In the meantime, members of Cameron are welcome to attend services at St Leonard's.

Re-Opening St Leonard's

The Kirk Session of **St Leonard's** has agreed to take cautious steps to reopen the Church for worship. This remains subject to national Church and Scottish Government advice and guidelines. We are planning to offer two opportunities to share worship on a Sunday: the first at 10.00am and the second at 12.00 noon, and we plan for these to begin on **Sunday 30th August**. However, we are keeping the matter under review. There are a number of safety issues we need to address so please bear with us!

The restriction of 2-meter distancing means that we are only allowed to admit 46 people to the church. To maximise on this, couples will not be allowed to sit side by side. Due to these restrictions, we have no choice but to introduce a booking system for Sunday worship. We also need to keep a Contact Tracing list for everyone in attendance.

For **Sunday 30th August** and subsequent Sundays please email the office on "stlencam@gmail.com" or phone 07703 864 832 on the Wednesday or Thursday morning before Sunday worship.

You will need to supply the name(s) of those attending, a contact telephone number for each, and whether it is the 10am or 12noon service you wish to attend. If the lists are full, you will be offered the chance to pre-book for the following week; this means everyone who wants to, should be able to attend worship in the Church building at least once a fortnight. There may be some disappointments, but we hope everyone will be understanding as we find a way to open up in these challenging times, whilst keeping everyone safe. Services will also be shared online.

Below are some bullet-points which we hope will help you navigate the return to church...

- ⊕ The service will last for about half an hour.
- ⊕ Social distancing will be in place, stewards will open doors and direct you to seats. Please go directly to your seat.
- ⊕ Enter by the front door on Hepburn Gardens only.
- ⊕ Face coverings should be worn inside the Church. You are asked to cover your face before entering, and not to remove the covering until you have left the building.

Navigating the Return to Church continued

- ⊕ An Offering plate will be available in the Welcome area. If you use the white gift aid or green free will offering envelopes, it would be a huge help if you placed your combined offering in the one envelope and bring that along with you.
- ⊕ Hand sanitiser will be available by the door into the Sanctuary and should be applied before entering.
- ⊕ We have had to remove the cushions from the pews. Therefore, if you require a cushion to sit on, please bring your own and take it away with you at the end of the service.
- ⊕ There will be music, but unfortunately no congregational singing.
- ⊕ Children and young people are welcome but will stay in the Church for the whole service.
- ⊕ Only the toilet in the Welcome Area will be available, and this will be cleaned after someone has used it. Please maintain all good hygiene practices for washing hands.
- ⊕ Please do not enter other parts of the building (i.e. the Church Hall and rear of the building).
- ⊕ After the service is over, please **wait in your seat** until you have been told you can leave the building.
- ⊕ Sadly, no tea and coffee after the service for the time being.

Whilst we are hopeful about reopening, due to the nature of the situation we will keep this under review.

For those who have health concerns, please remember that you should use your judgement about whether you attend or not. If you have any of the recognised signs and symptoms of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) please stay at home and self-isolate.

Common signs and symptoms can include fever; a persistent Cough; and tiredness. Early symptoms of COVID-19 may also include a loss of taste or smell.

Re-Opening St Leonard's continued

For those who decide not to, or who cannot attend we will continue to record and post services on the Digital page of the Website and on Facebook. These services include prayers, readings, a sermon/reflection and music.

These are first, tentative steps, and for those who choose to come we look forward to seeing you!

The Church Halls are closed to the public. Emails and phone calls will still be dealt with (our Church Administrator is able to work remotely from home).

Security and maintenance checks are carried out regularly at the Church.

Church Flowers Church flowers will not be distributed on Sundays for the time being.

A Hairdresser's Prayer – In celebration of them re-opening

God grant me the serenity
to accept the curly and the straight;
the compassion to work with the thick and the thin;
the courage to be on the cutting edge of life;
and the wisdom to read my customer's mind!

I wear a mask...*A Reflection by Thom M. Shuman*

I wear a mask because I have a son who is high-risk as a cancer survivor.
I wear a mask because both my wife and I are in the age population which is at greater risk.

I wear a mask because I help protect others

I wear a mask because it is easy to do.

I wear a mask because a piece of cloth does not violate my rights, my freedom as a citizen, or my political viewpoint. And even if it did, I would still wear a mask because the lives of others are more important than any so-called 'freedoms'.

But most importantly, I wear a mask because I am called to love my neighbour as I love myself, and I don't see God giving me any wiggle room in that call to compassion, love, and service