



IN THE LOOP

Booking for Drumclog- Call Mary on [REDACTED]

Bereavement - Call Ian Douglas on [REDACTED]

Hope you all had a good summer!

"Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."

Angus Allan suggested this verse to encourage us as we make steps towards a post-Covid rebuilding.

SUNDAY: Although booking is no longer required at Avendale, seating is a bit tighter at Drumclog, so please continue phoning Mary Harkness on the number at the top of the page to book for the next few weeks



Messy Church is back!

12th Sept 4-6pm

This is church for all ages - not just children. Grandparents, Mums & Dads & kids come along. We will be particularly cautious just now to minimise any risk of spread of infection so family groups will sit together and it will take place in the church sanctuary along the lines of the family service we had a few months ago.

We will still manage to have a meal together by having a take away meal from the local chippy! Please say you're coming by txt to [REDACTED] and whether you would like Fish or Pizza & chips!



Also starting on 12th September

7.30pm

A time of led meditation-see below

CRAFT CLUB

This will be meeting back every Tuesday from 7th September at 1.30-3.30pm for a bit of crafting and a lot of chatting! All are welcome. Enter the church at the back door and you will hear them before you see them! (Bring your own Thermos/drink/snack

A monthly newsletter is posted out to those who cannot access E-mail. It has been attached to this letter so keep reading to find out more.



HOLIDAY CLUB!

Ran from
Mon 9-Fri 13
August

**Fun was had by
all!**

**See the report
below!**

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world"

Church Services and Organisations

From the beginning of September, the booking system for Sunday worship for both Avendale and Drumclog will cease. Therefore, there will no longer be a need to pre-book a seat for Sunday. However, track and trace will be maintained.

Also, from the beginning of September, church organisations and meetings can recommence. Organisations are asked to liaise with the Hall Lets Committee (Ian Douglas, Neil Spence and Mervyn McMullan).

There will, of course, be some residual restrictions in place, e.g., mask wearing, hand sanitising, maintenance of 1 metre social distancing, and limited use of the kitchen only for preparation of teas and coffees. Also, the Yoof room remains unavailable.

Many thanks to the Hall Lets Committee and to those who have run the booking system for their tireless work over the last year.

Vacancy News

The Nominating Committee has now met on a number of occasions. A closing date of 15 September 2021 has been set for applications. The Committee is presently considering possible candidates to be our next minister, and are pleased to say that progress is being made. It remains the hope that the Committee will be able to recommend a sole nominee by the end of 2021.

Please remember the Committee in your prayers. (A list of the Committee members can be found on the church website).

Pastoral Care

In the event that any of our members are seeking pastoral care or, sadly, in the situation of a bereavement, please either call Ian Douglas on [REDACTED] or David Moreland on [REDACTED] who will be able to assist.

EDITORIAL

This Newsletter marks the start of autumn activities as we continue to transition to life with fewer constraints due to the pandemic. We all look forward to seeing more of each other.



Our banner Scripture verse encourages us as the world around us seems to contain so much darkness. Jesus brings light into every situation. How does he do that? Amazingly it is through us, for he also says "You are the light of the world."



Taketime Together is a monthly series of relaxing, guided meditations based on the stories of Jesus and the tradition of St Ignatius. All are welcome to enjoy the sessions, which are intentionally inclusive, non-directive and experiential. We meet in the Avendale Sanctuary at 7.30pm, and the first session is on 12th September.

Gift Aid Review

It has been a number of years since we undertook a review of our Gift Aid records and we recognise that over this time a number of you will have experienced a change in your circumstances that may have an impact on our ability to claim Gift Aid on your offerings.

If in the past you have signed a Gift Aid declaration, please review your eligibility for this. Where there has been a change let the Treasurer know by either dropping a note in the offering plate or contacting him via email at [REDACTED] or speak to him in person at Avendale any Sunday morning.

Equally, if you think that you may now be eligible for us to claim Gift Aid on your offering then again contact the Treasurer as above

Children, Youth and Family



We had a very successful Holiday Club with the team from Mad Ministries led by Brian Lowry. We were able to use the Hall at Avendale. We had over 20

excited and enthusiastic children and are pleased to say that some families are now booked to come to the first in-person **Messy Church** for a long time. We had to be online for 18 months and Murray and Anne Herbert provided a wonderful Messy Church@Home each month. We run monthly on Sundays from 4–6pm, starting 12th September, in the Avendale Hall. It's for the whole family, with songs, crafts, videos, chat and learning about God AND we finish off with a family meal. If you know a family who would like to come, tell them to contact Ann Herbert on [REDACTED]

His Kids and YOOF have begun again!

His Kids - lesson packs are sent out with a snack and drink to enjoy whilst doing their lesson. We are using SU lessons. 18 packs are sent out.

YOOF - meet online on Sunday evening (14 youngsters if they all come). They come from across Strathaven and surrounding villages. Some go to Avendale, others to Strathaven Evangelical Church.

TRAIIDCRAFT

After 30 years of running the Traidcraft stall on Sundays I regret to say that I feel it is time to look for new blood to carry on this commitment to Fairtrade.



If anyone is interested in taking over, I will be happy to help and advise on ordering and stock control.

Meantime I have a supply of catalogues and I will be happy to take orders until a replacement can be found. If you are interested contact the Session Clerk or myself.

Regards, Alison Mckinlay
[Many thanks, Alison, for all you have done! – Ed.]

Joel & Mayra in Mexico

Covid-19 has had a very severe effect in Mexico, especially among the poor. With our gifts they have been able to distribute food parcels to some of the most needy.

Much of their work has been done online, including the training of future Christian leaders.

Mayra's mother has been brought over from Costa Rica and is now cared for at home. Their son Joel Fernando is just starting his 2nd year at secondary school.

Please continue to pray for them in their very challenging work.