

## Go to your room - close the door.

*We will nurture one another in faith,  
uphold one another in prayer,  
encourage one another in service.*

Normally, every Sunday we can come to our lovely church building. We meet, sing, pray and learn together. We share news. We support and encourage one another in service.

But life is not normal in this strange time when we cannot come together. We have to limit the spread of Coronavirus. Isolation and social distancing mean that we are finding different ways to live out our commitment to each other and to encourage one another in service. So what can we do?

### Keep in Touch with Neighbours

Just as we keep in touch with friends and family members by phone we can also keep in touch offering practical help to others in the community. (If we have computers we can use Skype and Zoom to set up face to face conversations with others.)

### Worship with Others

You will have to do this online or by TV  
Gordon Sharp runs **"The Holy Shed"**. You can join it from the Dundee West Facebook page.  
<https://www.facebook.com/gordon.sharp.144/videos/1593523410822687>  
Other local ministers offering online services, include Rev Fiona Reynolds, Monifieth and Marjory MacLean, Carse Churches. (Easily accessed with a Google search for the church websites)

### Use Isolation positively - Go to your room, close the door.

Jesus says "when you pray, go to your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. And your Father who sees what you do in private, will reward you." (Matthew 6.6)  
Maybe isolation can help us seek quiet moments of meditation and prayer to experience the nearness of God. Tap into your inner strength.

Jack Laidlaw, Interim Moderator

## The Vacancy

The Nominating Committee completed its main task by naming the Rev Dr James Connolly (Jim) as the Sole Nominee for the vacancy. Jim was due to conduct worship on Sunday 22 March after which a vote would have been held. It did not happen. Social distancing and stay at home isolation stopped normal Sunday activities. When Sunday worship resumes, we shall look forward to hearing Jim conduct worship for us and a vote will be taken after that service.

Meantime, you can learn a bit more about Jim Connolly, by going to the website of Balmerino & Wormit Churches and you will be able to see him on some of the videos he is making for his current congregations.  
<https://www.wormitparishchurch.org.uk/>

Jack Laidlaw, Interim Moderator

### A Poem for Easter Day 2020

And where is Jesus, this strange Easter day?  
Not lost in our locked churches, any more  
Than he was sealed in that dark sepulchre.  
The locks are loosed; the stone is rolled away,  
And he is up and risen, long before,  
Alive, at large, and making his strong way  
Into the world he gave his life to save,  
No need to seek him in his empty grave.

He might have been a wafer in the hands  
Of priests this day, or music from the lips  
Of red-robed choristers, instead he slips  
Away from church, shakes off our linen bands  
To don his apron with a nurse: he grips  
And lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands  
The frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope,  
Breathes with the breathless, lends them strength to cope.

On Thursday we applauded, for he came  
And served us in a thousand names and faces  
Mopping our sickroom floors and catching traces  
Of that virus which was death to him:  
Good Friday happened in a thousand places  
Where Jesus held the helpless, died with them  
That they might share his Easter in their need,  
Now they are risen with him, risen indeed.

Malcolm Guite

## **Making Dundee Home (MDH)**

MDH has been an initiative of Dundee West for well over 4 years. It draws on hospitality, creativity and spirituality to promote justice and well-being for the people it serves. It is now supported by a very significant grant from the Church of Scotland Go for It fund and also Dundee City Council. Currently, during the Coronavirus Crisis indoor activities have had to stop but MDH staff are providing food parcels and maintaining support and contact by phone and online, where possible.

*If you wish more information, contact Gordon Sharp on 07341255354*

## **Keeping in Touch**

**It is hoped that Grapevine Special can be issued monthly till we can all meet again on Sundays at Church.**

**Your Elder may have been in touch with you to let you know the position regarding Dundee West Church as it stands just now. Whenever we get authority from the Government to reopen the church for services, you will be notified either by email, or a phone call from your elder as to the date etc. and, if any, what restrictions there may be, e.g. social distancing.**

**Please keep safe and well.**

### **TO SAVE POSTAGE IF YOU HAVE EMAIL LET US KNOW.**

**Please return the enclosed form to give permission for Dundee West to be able to contact you by email and by phone.**

**[ann.coleman@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.coleman@btinternet.com) or 01382562623.**

**APRIL 2020**

# **GRAPEVINE SPECIAL**



## **DUNDEE WEST CHURCH**

**INTERIM MODERATOR : Rev Jack Laidlaw**

**Telephone : 01382 477458 : Email : jacklaidlaw@blueyonder.co.uk**

**LOCUM : Gordon Sharp : Telephone : 07341255354  
Email : gordonsharp264@gmail.com**

**Website : [www.dundeewestchurch.org](http://www.dundeewestchurch.org)**

