

CONNECTING WITH AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR COMMUNITY

CONNECT

AUTUMN 2020



HOLY TRINITY
GLENCRAIG



Greetings in the name of Christ

During the past six months, we've been faced with many challenges. None have been greater than learning to cope with the 'new normal'. I am so thankful for God's faithfulness and the opportunities he has given us in the last six months, with over 100 people involved in our online services. Our number of views on Facebook and YouTube, combined, surpass any understanding I would have had. Some at this moment might say 2020 was a write-off! Instead we can declare that we had opportunities and experiences we would never have had if it had not been for the pandemic. Can I thank all those who willingly participated in all sorts of ways: adding to our online worship; those that helped with our telephone service, supporting, encouraging, and praying for me. In this season, a big thank you to the team who volunteer each week to make sure the church is safe and clean for opening, when I asked for people to volunteer I didn't expect 32, this is truly amazing. Thank you too, to our Health and Safety Committee who have truly been exceptional in being available and willing to work together for the good of the Parish, and of course a thank you comes to our Select Vestry for their faithfulness. Furthermore, can I urge you to keep praying, participating, viewing and sharing?

I take this opportunity to thank the Key Workers amongst us from those within the NHS, hospitals to pharmacies, those working in the Emergency Services, working in Nursing Homes, to our essential workers who farm or get produce to the shops, those who kept our electricity and communication networks open - thank you.

In each experience, we have an opportunity to choose hope or despair; we have a God who is faithful and steadfast and who has not abandoned us nor left us alone, rather he is right here in the middle of the chaos with us.

This year saw us all stop long enough to notice Spring in a new way, perhaps Summer came early and as we enter this new season of Autumn, whilst the seasons change our God is faithful forever. There is a hymn we have sung it during our online services and used it for worship in Church, and it declares -

*There is strength within the sorrow
There is beauty in our tears
And You meet us in our mourning
With a love that casts out fear
You are working in our waiting
You're sanctifying us
When beyond our understanding
You're teaching us to trust*

*You are wisdom unimagined
Who could understand Your ways
Reigning high above the Heavens
Reaching down in endless grace
You're the lifter of the lowly
Compassionate and kind
You surround and You uphold me
And Your promises are my delight*

*Your plans are still to prosper
You have not forgotten us
You're with us in the fire and the flood
You're faithful forever
Perfect in love
You are sovereign over us*

*Even what the enemy means for evil
You turn it for our good
You turn it for our good and for Your glory
Even in the valley, You are faithful
You're working for our good
You're working for our good and for Your glory*

The seasonal cycle of the year reminds us of God's promise that while the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease (Genesis 8:22.)

We are familiar with the changing seasons, and Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 reminds us of the changing seasons of life. For everything, there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest... A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance... For many of us we have found ourselves in tears more than laughter, grieving more than dancing.

I believe that in this season, God is looking for and longing for spiritual growth, spiritual development and a spiritual harvest in our lives. God calls us to be a church which seeks to make Christ known in our own lives and to invite others to meet him too.

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God's care for the world reflects His care for you and your family and friends, God calls and invites each one of us into a restored relationship with Himself, through faith in Jesus Christ, His Son, the one who suffered and died on the cross, who was raised to life again. These changing seasons and challenging days let us be individuals and a church who seek this opportunity to experience the sustaining grace of God to know and experience the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Please know that I am praying for each of us to know the faithfulness of God and the extent of his great love for each of one us. I am praying that in these days we would experience 'that even in the valley God is faithful', that even in these uncertain times we would know God has not forgotten us and reaches down to us in endless grace.

Yours in His Service

Catherine

To Register for church services.

Please call 07495 065611 Monday 9am - Friday 5pm.

All of our usual indoor activities are suspended, but we look forward with expectancy for a time when we can meet again with our groups and clubs.

Alpha @ Seahill...

We believe that everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith and ask questions. If you would like to ask questions about life and faith, then try Alpha – it's open to everyone! This is an online Alpha.

and informal space to explore the basics of Christian faith, and the difference faith makes for our lives. We'd love to see you there - why not invite others to come too? Please contact catherine@holytrinityglenraig.org for the Zoom link.

The introductory evening starts on **Tuesday 29th September at 7.30 pm**. It is a relaxed

Harvest...

As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. Genesis 8:22

Harvest Services of Thanksgiving is planned to take place on Sunday 18th October at 9.45am and 11.30am.

Please telephone 07495065611 to register to attend and please state which service you wish to attend.

This year will be significantly different, and so instead of donating fresh flowers or fruit, we are inviting parishioners to support the holytrinityglenraig.org

North Down Storehouse. Contributions to the community Food bank of non-perishable food stuffs can be left in the church hall on Tuesday 13th October between 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm. Heather and team will then decorate the church using these items and some other floral arrangements. If you wish to be part of this, please contact Heather Williams (07511022536) or email catherine@holytrinityglenraig.org and your details will be forwarded to Heather. All decorating of the church must take place on Wednesday the 14th October to comply with our Risk Assessment, and those helping will comply with our guidelines including the wearing of Face coverings, social distancing, hand sanitising and wearing gloves.

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Annual General Vestry

Our General Vestry meeting, scheduled back before Holy Week, will happen on the 1st of October, if you have attended a service in church recently, or been on our website or listened to our online services, you will be aware of this and know that only registered Vestry Members may vote. This is an essential annual occasion in the life of our Church family. Please pray for its business.

Restrictions permitting, the meeting will take place in the Church or Hall at 7.30pm, and attendance will be limited due to social distancing requirements.

To attend the meeting you will need to contact our Acting Hon Secretary via email by Monday the 27th September - david.mcilhagger@talk21.com or Rev Catherine - 028 9042 1691

Please do not attend if you or any of your household are displaying symptoms of Covid:19. If the meeting is able to go ahead and you have got a place, you will then receive confirmation of attendance and details 24 hours prior to the meeting, including if we are meeting in the Hall or the Church. Those attending will be required to adhere to 2m social distancing, sitting in Household Bubbles and the wearing of a face covering is compulsory (unless medically exempt).

In addition to electing members of the Select Vestry, we will hear a brief presentation from Rev Catherine. Additionally, there will be a short presentation on the parish's financial situation (please see attached information regarding finances).

Financial...

We start by thanking you for your generous support towards the life of this local parish. It is important to think Biblically about giving and to remember that our financial contribution is an extension of our worship. Each one of us has a role to play in future proofing this local church in our community as we give to the

This meeting will also elect our Diocesan Synod representatives and Parochial Nominators.

We are very grateful to all who have served on our Select Vestry in the past, and particularly in the past year. I would like to add a special note of thanks to Mr Billy Mercer. At the start of 2020 Billy made his intention known that he would be retiring as Hon Secretary after the Easter General Vestry in 2020. He retires after 54 years of faithful service to the community and Parish of Glencraig. We are grateful for the extra five months of Billy's tenure.

While it is somewhat coincidental, Billy came onto the Vestry just after the 'old' organ had been installed and now he bows out just after the installation of the new one. This serves to highlight the many decisions which he was a part of. I know that I speak not only for the present Select Vestry membership but for those gone before and surviving who served with you over the last 54 years, that the feeling of friendship and gratitude is mutual.

The Select Vestry on behalf of the parishioners want to mark this occasion, celebrating Billy's service, and thank him, Helen, and the whole family for all their help. Together they gave so generously of his time to facilitate the Mission and Ministry of this local church. As such we intend to make a presentation to Billy and Helen on behalf of the parish at a Harvest Service. Should you wish to contribute to a gift, please send your contribution marked for Present for B Mercer to Tony Gregg our Hon Treasurer.

mission and ministry of this local church. Thank you for your generous support and thank you to those of you who have made provision for us to receive a legacy in the future. This year our finances look significantly healthier than in previous years, so thank you to everyone who played a part in this. Our current financial



position is healthier primarily because we sold a site at the Vicarage. With the proceeds from this sale, the Parishioner Loans (without which the new Vicarage could not have been built) were all refunded. In addition, the long-term loan from Ulster Bank was fully repaid.

The sale of the site added to the receipt of a number of legacies, places our finances in a healthier position than previous years. These two factors have enabled us to tarmac the front of the church, upgrade the sound system in the church, put a projector and the old sound system from the church into the hall, and more recently to install a new organ.

We are very grateful for the legacies we have received over the last year. You will see that the use of legacy money is restricted to the Building Fund and the Outreach and Mission of this local church, so it is essential that as parishioners we continue to give generously.

As a congregation we have significantly more members over retirement age than under it. For

this reason it is vital that we prioritise reaching out into our community to and encourage those on the fringes, some who have maybe not attended for many years to come back, along with welcoming new parishioners of every age and stage of life to become part of this local church.

Thank you if you contributed to the Lenten challenge. The aim this year was to increase our giving by 20% in 2020 to help facilitate Children and Youth ministry. Unfortunately, this year planned events in Holy week did not happen and the Lenten Challenge happened for some and not for others. Many of you have asked if there a possibility of still being part of this, and so we have decided in light of the pandemic to have a **Harvest Challenge**.

This will effectively replace our Lenten challenge and give those who were unable to participate in it the opportunity to take part in the Harvest Challenge.

Harvest Challenge...

We invite you to donate whatever you feel you would like to. Half of the money raised will go towards the Outreach fund within our Parish, and half will go towards Buildings, e.g. we need to be upgrading and refurbishing our Parish Hall and Kitchen. The glazing needs to be replaced in the Parish hall, some repainting is required in the hall and church, and the hall has recently 'sprung a leak'. Anything given as part

of the Harvest Challenge will be split between maintaining and improving our buildings and Outreach Opportunities within our community. Please bring your Harvest Challenge Donations to church on our Harvest weekend 18th October or the week after that on the 25th October.

Praying Together

Thursday 8th October
7:30 - 8:30pm | ONLINE via ZOOM

Paul, in his letter to the Colossian Christians, encourages them to devote themselves to prayer, to being watchful and thankful. (Colossians 4:2)

Let's be people who devote ourselves to prayer. Join us at our monthly prayer event in this new season, as we come together to pray for the ministry and mission of the Church, and for the community in which we live and work. For the Zoom link please email catheirne@holytrinityglenraig.org.



Accounts...

Glenraig Parish Church | Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 December 2019

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Income and endowments from					
Donations & legacies	2	195,726	1,384	197,110	95,227
Charitable activities	3	12,243	-	12,243	12,922
Other income	4	1,332	20,000	21,332	1,332
Investments	5	923	122	1,045	122
Total income and endowments:		210,224	21,506	231,730	109,603
Expenditure on					
Charitable activities	6	108,884	12,706	121,590	83,928
Total Expenditure		108,884	12,706	121,590	83,928
Net Income		101,340	8,800	110,140	25,675
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		35,540	666,500	702,040	676,365
Total funds carried forward	10	136,880	675,300	812,180	702,040

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

Accounts...

GlenCraig Parish Church | Balance Sheet

Year ended 31 December 2019

	Note	2019	2018
Fixed Assets		£	£
Tangible assets	9	655,000	(restated) 775,000
Current Assets			
Investments with RCB		20,300	-
Other debtors		12,244	-
Cash at bank and in hand		139,333	35,540
Total		171,877	35,540
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		14,697	108,500
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		157,180	(72,960)
Net Assets		812,180	702,040
Charity Funds			
Restricted funds	10	675,300	666,500
Unrestricted funds	10	136,880	35,540
Total charity funds		812,180	702,040

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 17/9/20 and signed on its behalf by the Rev Catherine Simpson (Rector) and Mr Tony Gregg (Hon Treasurer)



October Readings...

Thurs 1st Oct	Psalm 144	Hosea 4:11-19	Acts 21:27-36
Fri 2nd Oct	Psalm 145	Hosea 5:1-7	Acts 21:37-22:16
Sat 3rd Oct	Psalm 148	Hosea 5:8-6:11a	Acts 22:17-29
Sun 4th Oct	Psalm 19	Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20	Matthew 21:33-46
Mon 5th Oct	Psalms 1, 2, 3	Hosea 6:11b-7:16	Acts 22:30-23:11
Tue 6th Oct	Psalms 8, 10	Hosea 8:1-14	Acts 23:12-24
Wed 7th Oct	Psalms 15, 17	Hosea 9:1-17	Acts 23:23-35
Thurs 8th Oct	Psalm 18:31-51	Hosea 10:1-15	Acts 24:1-23
Fri 9th Oct	Psalms 20, 21	Hosea 11:1-12:6	Acts 24:24-25:12
Sat 10th Oct	Psalms 28, 29	Hosea 12:7-13:3	Acts 25:13-27
Sun 11th Oct	Psalm 106:1-6,19-23	Exodus 32:1-14	Matthew 22:1-14
Mon 12th Oct	Psalm 35	Hosea 13:4-16 14:1-9	Acts 26:1-23
Tue 13th Oct	Psalm 37:1-17	Jonah 1:1-17a	Acts 26:24-27:8
Wed 14th Oct	Psalm 38	Jonah 1:17-2:10	Acts 27:9-26
Thurs 15th Oct	Psalm 40	Jonah 3:1-4:11	Acts 27:27-44
Fri 16th Oct	Psalm 44	Micah 1:1-9	Acts 28:1-16
Sat 17th Oct	Psalm 49	Micah 2:1-13	Acts 28:17-31
Sun 18th Oct	Psalm 99	Exodus 33:12-23	Matthew 22:15-22
Mon 19th Oct	Psalms 54, 55	Micah 3:1-8	Revelation 7:1-8
Tue 20th Oct	Psalms 60, 61	Micah 3:9-4: 5	Revelation 7:9-17
Wed 21st Oct	Psalms 64, 65	Micah 5:1-4,	Revelation 8:1-13
Thurs 22nd Oct	Psalms 70, 71	Micah 7:1-7	Revelation 9:1-12
Fri 23rd Oct	Psalm 119:145-168	Jeremiah 11:18-23	Matthew 10:16-22
Sat 24th Oct	Psalm 78:32-55	Daniel 7:15-28	Revelation 10:1-11
Sun 25th Oct	Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	Matthew 22:34-46
Mon 26th Oct	Psalm 79	Daniel 8:1-14	Revelation 11:1-14
Tue 27th Oct	Psalms 81, 82	Daniel 8:15-27	Revelation 11:14-19
Wed 28th Oct	Psalms 116, 117	Isaiah 45:18-25	Luke 6:12-16
Thurs 29th Oct	Psalm 89:19-37	Daniel 9:20-27	Revelation 12:7-17
Fri 30th Oct	Psalm 90	Daniel 10:1-11:2	Revelation 13:1-10
Sat 31st Oct	Psalms 92, 93	Daniel 12:1-13	Revelation 13:11-18