

I want to take this opportunity to thank some of the people who have assisted in offering Church to us over the past year and a half, with many different phases and stages to adapt to.

The Holburn West Covid-19 Steering Group have met regularly on behalf of the Kirk Session to consider and implement the frequently evolving Church of Scotland Guidelines. Our Treasurer Norman Brown has continued to faithfully deal with the congregation's finances. Martin Greig and Sheila Smith have overseen many of the practical concerns re the use of the building. The Buildings Convener Sandy Gallacher and his team have been active in maintaining and improving the building.

Thanks to the door duty teams who have welcomed and guided those attending services in the sanctuary. Our organist and choir leader Jamie Campbell has done a wonderful job of providing music for both our morning and evening worship, adapting as the guidelines would allow.

Thanks to Hamish Mitchell and Norman Brown for collecting your donations to Instant Neighbour and reminding us in a very practical way to care for our neighbour. Also, I would like to acknowledge the many acts of kindness and attention being done by many of you in caring, sensitive and discreet ways.

Thanks to Verna Ward and Yvonne Bain for enabling so many worship services to be offered online, both live and recorded. Also, as your minister, I have appreciated the skills and gifts of folks within our own congregation, leading worship both in the morning and evening. Thanks to Anne Smith for coordinating a monthly House Fellowship gathering via Zoom. I could go on. I'm conscious that I have not named each individual who comes to mind. But the main point is that we are thankful for each and every one of them.

In this letter, we note that at the Kirk Session meeting on Tuesday 29th June, Verna Ward retired as the Holburn West Co-Session Clerk. Sheila Smith has now been appointed as Co-Session Clerk to serve along with Martin Greig. Many thanks go to Verna for her dedication and commitment to her role as a Session Clerk. Verna had previously served as Clerk to the Congregational Board and then took on the duties of Co-Session Clerk when Holburn West moved to the Unitary Constitution. There was much to learn, but Verna applied herself with enthusiasm and generosity of her time and skills. She has shown compassion and a willing and happy spirit in the carrying out of her duties.

This Sunday 11th July, before the congregation, we will take the opportunity to thank Verna for her service as Session Clerk and to welcome Sheila Smith as the new Co-Session Clerk. Sheila has been very active as Convener of the Pastoral Care Team. She will bring her own particular gifts and skills to the role of Co-Session Clerk.

I wish you a very enjoyable and blessed Summer and I close with this Blessing.

*Weave us, O Christ,
into your people,
and bless our belonging.*

*Hold us, O Christ,
in your love,
and bless our pledging.*

*Stay with us, O Christ,
in darkness and doubt,
and bless our trusting.*

*Fill us, O Christ,
with your Holy Spirit,
and bless our new beginning.*

(Angela Ashwin)

from Duncan C. Eddie

