

November 2020 Holburn West Church Newsletter

Dear members and friends of Holburn West Church

As I write, it is an exciting time in a tumultuous year. A vaccination has been developed to enable immunity from the Covid-19 virus and it is hoped to commence vaccination programmes in the UK by the end of this year. The President Elect of the USA has been announced as Mr Joe Biden, leader of the Democrat Party. Both events are encouraging and help us to look ahead more positively.

Of course, there are still major concerns before us: the approaching Brexit and uncertainties that brings, the economic repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic following restrictions that had to be made. We have been and are still in a war with a virus. As in a war, we need to support one another across the nation. A sense of collective solidarity at a time like this, can be encouraging for everyone. The income for charities has been greatly reduced, because of less opportunities for fundraising events along with the negative economic impact on local businesses and people's incomes. We would encourage you to support charities by donating to them in whatever way you can. At Christmas we have often supported Instant Neighbour and Médecins sans Frontières. At various times we support Christian Aid. And, of course, there are many other valuable charities you can support. It would make a huge difference for them if we could all set aside some of our money and donate it to them.

Recently, one of the great servants of Holburn West Church, passed away peacefully while in hospital. It was Bill Duncan who had served the Church faithfully over many years. He was a caring and attentive District Elder, a former Senior Sunday School Leader, Co-Session Clerk, a key founding member of the Jubilee evening worship community. Bill also took his part in the rota of voluntary cleaning teams. He assisted as beadle on many occasions. Bill regularly set up the church to welcome in the Ashley Road School children for the Christmas services. Of course, a number of children's organizations, which meet in the church halls, would have encountered Bill in disguise at their Christmas parties. Although he was a great Dons supporter, the red he was wearing on these occasions was accompanied by welly boots, a black belt, a red hood and a white beard, carrying a sack of parcels. I hope I'm not giving any secrets away!!! When I first arrived in Aberdeen as the new minister at Holburn West Church, Bill visited the Manse and handed me the keys to the Kingdom. Well, not quite; it was the keys for the Holburn West suite of halls. Bill was a wonderful person to have assisting at the Church in so many ways. Latterly his poorer health had limited his mobility. He was lovingly supported by his wife Lillian, family, friends and neighbours. However, his time had come. We will miss him and we are thankful for the many happy memories of times shared with him.

There will be a further communication prior to Christmas from Holburn West Church.

Here are the details as far as I have them regarding how we are going to celebrate Advent and Christmas this year. N.B. This year there will not be a Watchnight service or Christmas Day service in the sanctuary. However, there will be many other opportunities to celebrate the Good News of Christmas both in the sanctuary and online. See below.

God bless

from Rev. Duncan C. Eddie

Recent deaths of Holburn West Church members

Mrs Moira Duncan
Mrs Lena Elrick
Mr Dillon Keith
Mr Bill Duncan
Mrs Margaret Cowie

Advent and Christmas Services

November

29 10.30 am First Sunday of Advent in Sanctuary

5.30 pm Coffee and Chat online

6.00 pm Worship online: "The Practice of Pronouncing Blessings"

December

6 10.30 am Second Sunday of Advent in Sanctuary

5.30 pm Coffee and Chat online

6.00 pm Worship online

13 10.30 am Third Sunday of Advent in Sanctuary

5.30 pm Coffee and Chat online

6.00 pm Worship online

20th Fourth Sunday of Advent

All Age Worship in the Sanctuary with a Lego Nativity

5.30 pm Coffee and Chat online

6.00 pm Worship online

**24th 6.30 pm Christmas Eve Worship online (Thursday)
with dramatized parts of the Christmas story.**

Join us for a live Zoom service which can also be accessed via YouTube.

27th 10.30 am Morning Worship in Sanctuary

City Centre and West End Churches Joint Service on YouTube

Kirk of St Nicholas Uniting, St. Mark's, Holburn West, Midstocket, Rubislaw, Queen's Cross
Available from every Sunday morning onwards in Advent. These will include Christmas carols sung by a virtual joint choir from the respective congregations. Check it out
Sunday 20th December will be a Christmas service led by the young folk from the churches together. Sunday 27th December: Readings and Carols.