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**Ardoch Church of Scotland Guild**  
**Whose we are, and Whom we serve**  
**One Journey, Many Roads - 'The Extra Mile'**

**Keeping You in the Loop**

**April 21**

**Dear Guild members,**

For over a year we have been subject to various restrictions and lockdowns. We are fortunate that we have been relatively unscathed as a community. However, my mind constantly turns to those who have been adversely affected. Occasionally phoning round Guild members I am particularly aware of all those (and there are many) who, for various reasons, have found this year a particularly difficult one.

Let us remember our Guild members in our prayers:  
Gracious God, so many are tired and stressed, lonely and traumatised. Yet You look upon us with tender mercy, and long to pour out your healing balm. Forgive us Lord Jesus that we are so rigid and narrow in our form of communication, where we often judge others rather than appreciate their difference. Enlarge our minds and our hearts through your Holy Spirit, to connect with others with empathy, with creativity, so we can build bridges of acceptance and love with others.  
Amen

Here's to seeing you all, in the not too distant future, even if a little tentatively.

Heather





**Easter** is a time of reflection. Over the years I have participated in many Lenten bible studies that have taught me much and given me much to think about. Our church bible study I am doing just now is proving to be just as challenging as any other. The times we are living through with this pandemic are influencing our lives so much in so many different ways. However, the amazing thing about the Easter story is the resurrection of Jesus. It must fill us with joy..... and anticipation.

John 3:16/17 says “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that anyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.”

When we believe we are his, we are saved and we are safe in his hands.

**Believe it!**

Pat Duncan

## **APRIL ZOOM GUILD MEETING**

We welcome Liz Paterson as our speaker on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April. She will be doing a presentation about her visit to India.

Christine Souter will host the meeting.

**This is the link for the zoom meeting that begins at 2pm on 01 04 21.  
Arrive a little early to be welcomed and meet with others online**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9205380068>**

## World Day of Prayer

This year's world day of prayer was prepared by the Christian Women of the Republic of Vanuatu. The theme was "Build on a strong foundation" Our service was held on March 4th on Zoom. We started off with music and images from Vanuatu and went on to learn about the culture and lives of the Vanuatu people. With a Vanuatu song from John Duncan and recordings from Eleanor, Robyn and Hannah from the Hot Chocolate Club, who told the stories of three Vanuatu women, we learnt how difficult life for young people in Vanuatu could be.

Twenty one people attended the Zoom service both from Ardoch and Blackford churches. Ten participated in the service and many knitted prayer squares which were given out alongside the order of service. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare and participate in the service.

A big thank you to Christine Souter for all her advice and technical support.

We are able to send £260 to World Day of Prayer thanks to your generous donations and a cheque from the Guild. World Day of Prayer are supporting two charities in Vanuatu, one providing education and skills to disadvantaged young people, and the other supporting women who suffer from domestic abuse. We are looking forward to welcoming you to the 2022 World Day of Prayer in March 2022 which is being prepared by the Christian women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

**Sally Young**

**Ardoch Church of Scotland WDP coordinator.**

Christine Souter has made a recording of the WDP zoom session and has put it in the Guild section of the Ardoch Church website: [ardochparishchurch.org](http://ardochparishchurch.org)

It is now there for all to access.

## A church elder has written a comedy song about the COVID-19 lockdown

Jeannie Price said she has tried to reflect the experiences and observations of most people over the last year in her lighthearted lyrics. It is set to the tune of Wild Rover by The Dubliners. A member of Methlick Parish Church in Aberdeenshire, she said she tries to hold onto the lighter side of life and faith and a sense of humour has helped her get through the past year.

**Go online and enter:**

**You Tube Jeannie Price #covid19 #lockdown #comedy**

## Something to read and ponder

# compassion

[kəm'pɑːʃ(ə)n]

NOUN

1. sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others.

*synonyms:*

pity · sympathy · feeling · fellow

feeling · empathy · understanding · care · concern · solicitude

solicitousness · sensitivity · tender-heartedness · soft-

heartedness · warm-heartedness · warmth · love · brotherly

love · tenderness · gentleness · mercy

“A student once asked anthropologist Margaret Mead, “What is the earliest sign of civilization?” The student expected her to say a clay pot, a grinding stone, or maybe a weapon.

Margaret Mead thought for a moment, then she said, “A healed femur.”

A femur is the longest bone in the body, linking hip to knee. In societies without the benefits of modern medicine, it takes about six weeks of rest for a fractured femur to heal. A healed femur shows that someone cared for the injured person, did their hunting and gathering, stayed with them, and offered physical protection and human companionship until the injury could mend.

Mead explained that where the law of the jungle—the survival of the fittest—rules, no healed femurs are found. The first sign of civilization is **compassion**, seen in a healed femur.”

**By Dr Ira Byock.**

## Roy Speirs

It was with great sadness we heard of the passing of Roy Speirs. Roy gave tireless service to the Church in Ardoch, as well as many other organisations. We offer our sincere condolences to Ann and Roy’s family and will keep them in our prayers.

## MAY ZOOM GUILD MEETING

Next month on 6<sup>th</sup> May Mairi, our minister, is to do a presentation about her visit to Israel.

Christine Souter will host the meeting.

This is the link for the zoom meeting that begins at 2pm on 06 05 21.

Arrive a little early to be welcomed and meet with others online

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9205380068>

Following our speaker, we will have short AGM where, our President will present her report and our Treasurer, Dorothy, will be available to answer questions about the accounts.

## Your Guild Prayer Diary for the week ahead

**Monday:** for children and staff returning to school after the Easter holiday .  
That they will feel and be safe in the weeks ahead.

**Tuesday:** thinking especially of our leadership team, Mabel Wallace, Andrea Houston, Helen Banks, Helen Eckford and Margaret Muir, as they meet to discuss the future direction of the Guild.

**Wednesday:** for Guild members who are currently in hospital or recovering at home from Covid-19.

**Thursday:** giving thanks for all who are working in presbyteries across Scotland to help develop and build our Church.

**Friday:** remembering our six new project partners as they prepare to work with us over the next three years

**Saturday:** for all in positions of leadership at a local, national and international level. That they may govern with justice, wisdom, compassion and integrity.

**Sunday:** for our twinned partners in the Guilds in the Synod of Livingstonia in Northern Malawi, asking particularly for protection during this pandemic

