

## Positive feedback

FOLLOWING the time of worship, the reports back from everyone who attended were unanimous and very encouraging

People felt safe, and, despite the necessary changes, it was a good time of worship, where God's Spirit was present, and He was glorified.

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Romans 8 vv 38-39**



The Rev Sonia Palmer, our locum minister

# What does all this mean for you?

AT PRESENT, we will open for Midweek Worship on the following Tuesdays between 10am-11am: October 6, November 3 and December 8. As I said, fantastic news, we are back ... in a small way.

Due to social distancing and the number of pews in the church, we can only accommodate between 20 and 30 people, depending on family groupings or individual attendance. To this end there needs to be a booking system which could be quite complicated and time consuming to administer. I am very grateful to the minister and office-bearers at St Giles and St Columba's South, who have offered the use of their office, and Kirsty has willingly agreed to manage the bookings for me.

***"We would love to welcome you back, and even though masks are worn, you can see the smiles in folks' eyes as they come through the door"***

You can contact Kirsty on **07726 882 077** Monday to Friday 09.30am-12.30pm. If she is very busy, or you telephone outwith these hours, there is an answering machine where you will need to leave the names of who

you are booking for, your phone number and which service date and place that you want to book in for. This saves any confusion with bookings for other services.

This system will also ensure we abide by Track and Protect protocols.

When you arrive for the service, you will be checked in, asked to sanitise your hands and read the posters mounted in the foyer. A volunteer will then guide you to your seat so that inside the building you will not be overwhelmed with people in close contact.

At the close of worship, you will remain seated until it is your turn to be led out under two metre distancing.

As there are no pew cushions (removed under requirement) and we are restricted in other ways, the service starts with some housekeeping (five minutes) and the service itself is kept to 30-35 minutes for your comfort.

We are still able to worship and praise God in a different way, so all I ask is that, when you feel comfortable to join with us at Elgin High Church, please come and see for yourself. Speak to those who have already 'tried and seen' and what they thought.

When YOU are ready, we would love to welcome you back, and even though masks are worn, you can see the smiles in folks' eyes as they come through the door.

I so look forward to seeing you face-to-face, and please remember to book first as we are restricted in numbers.

**Hebrews 10:35-36: So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.**

*God's love and blessings to you all with virtual hugs*

**Paula**





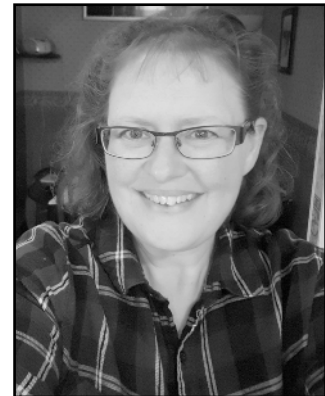
# ELGIN HIGH CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

## A MESSAGE FROM PAULA

# Welcome back ... to a new thing!



Paula Baker

**HELLO ALL, it is so good to be contacting you with some fantastic news. But first, I want to share with you this reading from Isaiah 43: 1-3a, 19**

*But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you.*

*O Israel, the one who formed you says:*

*“Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.*

*When you go through deep waters, I will be with you.*

*When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown.*

*When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.*

*For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.*

*19... I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?*

*I will make a pathway through the wilderness.*

*I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.*

THINGS HAVE been difficult for everyone for the last 6 months but there is light at the end of the tunnel and progress is being made.

It was a very sad, but necessary decision to close our place of worship back in March. It meant that you and I did not have the 'space' to be anchored to.

We lost the familiar and comfortable, and in some ways, missed out on the celebrations that bring us together as a church family.

However, God was and is faithful and we have been finding other ways to connect with our church family and stay close with God.

Many people have been instrumental in providing that vital lifeline daily and weekly, so that we are moving forward in our relationship with God and keeping up with what is happening with each other.

***“It was a very sad, but necessary, decision to close our place of worship”***

You will have been keenly following the news, just as I have, and will notice changes in the way we can do things, including in our meeting together.

To help you, and assure me, the Kirk Session and Congregational Board, agreed to be 'guinea pigs' for me. We filled out our risk assessments and the Church of Scotland check lists and the sanitising company was booked to be in the church for the day before and after services.

The church was mapped out with yellow and black tape to ensure two metre distancing, with a one way system in operation, along with signs ensuring the wearing of masks during the service and sanitiser stations coming in and going out of the building.

However, we needed to know that coming to worship was going to be safe for you, but also that we were still going to be able to worship God in this different way.

We all know this, but I'll say it anyway, God is awesome.