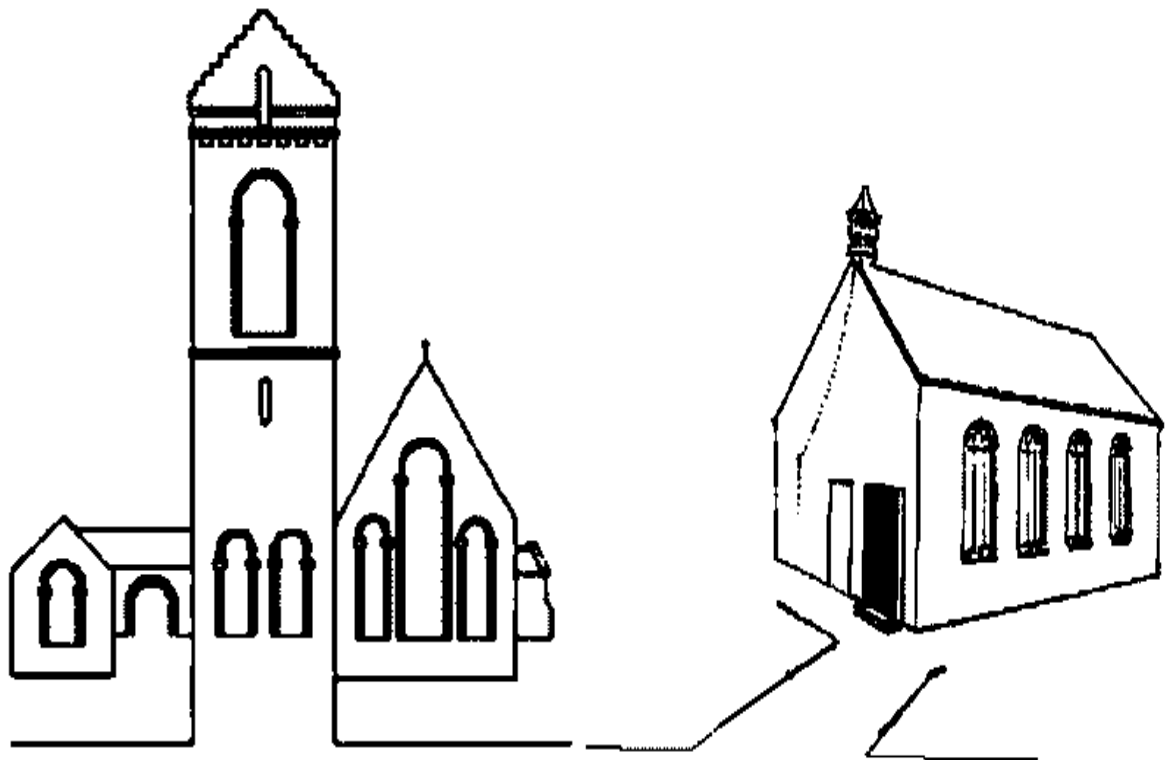


St Leonard's and Cameron Magazine

EASTER/SPRING 2021



*View from the Manse
Deserted Island Discs,
Cameron Kirk Bell Tower
Grace's Briquettes, Book Review
Community Hub*

St Leonard's Parish Church of Scotland Congregation No: SC013586
Cameron Parish Church of Scotland Scottish Charity No: SC05565

CONTENTS

Pages 3 -5	View from the Manse
Page 5	Booking Information/ The Church Family
Page 6	Caim (a prayer)
Pages 7 & 8	Deserted Island Discs by George Cowan
Pages 9 &10	Grace's Briquette Project
Page 11	Things My Dog has Taught Me about being a better human being – book review by Marie Robinson
Pages 12-13	Community Hub News
Page 13	The Leprosy Mission/ Stamps/ Storehouse
Page 14	Cameron Guild/ Lockdown Shopping
Page 15	Liz's Run
Page 16	An Update from the St Leonard's Treasurer
Page 17	Christian Aid
Page 18	Cameron Kirk Bell Tower

Deadline for next issue is 23rd May for June - August

View from the Manse

Dear Friends,

I'm sure that I'm not the only one, but the journey through Lent towards Easter feels particularly strange this year.

Unlike last year, when we were already well into Lent before the first Lockdown began on the 23 March, this year we began the forty-day journey in the middle of a lockdown which, for me at least, has been filled with a sense of unease. Not knowing when or how we will emerge from this time makes looking forward difficult. I'm aware of feeling more anxious about things than I did a year ago, more apprehensive about the future and what that future will look like. People keeping telling me, 'We'll get there', and I don't doubt that we will. What I can't help wondering is what 'there' is going to look like, and what state we'll be in when we arrive.

So, as I say, looking forward can be difficult at the moment. Yet, look forward we must.

Traditionally, Lent is a season for giving things up. However, we've spent the last twelve months doing just that, 'giving things up'. We've had to give up what's been called 'in-person' worship for weeks on end (how I've grown to loathe the phrase 'In-person worship').

We've had to give up hugs and handshakes, school, days out, shopping, trips to the cinema, holidays, and perhaps most difficult and damaging of all, we've had to give up meeting up with family and friends.

The one thing we must definitely not give up is hope, and in spite of everything, no matter how anxious I get or apprehensive I may feel, that is what I hold on to. As I've said so often through the last twelve months, it is hope that keeps me going. I suppose it's hope that keeps us all going.

Continued on page 4

View from the Manse continued from page 3

The season of Lent is meant to be preparation for Easter. It's meant to help us focus our minds on God, our thoughts on Jesus' path to the cross. Lent is about making a conscious effort to examine our lives; to question the things that can crowd out God and to remember that the new life and new hope of Easter is always with us, even if we sometimes struggle to see it.

And perhaps never, certainly in my own life and ministry has that been as true as it is this Easter.

As I write it has literally just been announced that communal Worship in Scotland for groups of up to fifty people should be able to resume from Friday 26 March. This means that our churches should be open for Palm Sunday and Easter Day.

To say that this is an answer to prayer may sound flippant, and yet it is anything but that. For this is an answer to prayer – my prayers as well as the prayers of so many other people. It's not that we can't celebrate Easter without going to church. Of course we can. However, the fact that we can is such a powerful expression of hope, and hope is what keeps us going...the Hope of Redemption (Release); the Hope of Salvation (Renewal); the Hope of Resurrection (Rebirth)

So, may I wish you a very happy, a very blessed and a very hope-filled Easter.

With my love and prayers



PS. Following the First Minister's statement on Tuesday 9 March, the Scottish Government issued the following news release: "Should progress suppressing the virus continue, the Scottish Government intends to reopen places of worship with attendance limits increased from 20 to 50 where there is space for social distancing on Friday 26 March. A final decision will be taken on Tuesday 23 March ahead of Passover, Easter, Ramadan and Vaisakhi."

Continued on page 5

View from the Manse continued from page 4

Both congregations will be working toward reopening for worship on Palm Sunday, Sunday 28 March. However, as you see from the news release, that is subject to the continued improvement in the Covid-19 statistics and the subsequent final decision on Tuesday 23 March.

If you are able, please keep an eye on the Church Website and/or our Facebook page for updates. You will find details about the Booking process printed in this Magazine; and all being well, you will be able to book for the Palm Sunday service from 9.30am on Wednesday 24 March.

Graeme

Subject to above caveats the booking arrangements will be as before: To book your space, please email the office on “stlencam@gmail.com” or phone 07871 871 740 on the Wednesday, Thursday or Friday morning before Sunday worship. You will need to supply the name(s) of those attending, a contact telephone number for each, and which church you wish to attend. If the lists are full, you will be offered the chance to pre-book for the following week; this means everyone who wants to, should be able to attend worship in Church at least once a fortnight. There may be some disappointments, but we hope everyone will be understanding as we find a way to open up in these challenging times, whilst keeping everyone safe.



The Church Family

St Leonard's

New Members

**Mr Steven Gilman
Mrs Jane Gilman**

St Leonard's

Deaths

**Mr Arthur Griffiths
Mr Malcolm Mitchell
Mrs Elizabeth Ferrier
Mr Robin Alexander
Mrs Dorothy Duncan**

Cameron

New Member

Mr Ralph Sprot

Caim

David Adam Tides and Seasons (London: SPCK), 1989, p. 112.

David Adam explains that a caim was a special prayer said by Hebridean Celts in times of danger. 'Using the index finger of their right hand they would point and turn a full circle sun-wise.... This was no magic, it was no attempt to manipulate God. It was a reminder by action that we are always surrounded by God, He is our encompasser, our encircler... This is a tuning in to the fact that, "in Him we live and move and have our being"; we are enfolded in Him.' (pp 104-105)

The Holy Three
Protecting be
Enfolding me
In eternity
To shield
To save
To circle
To surround
My house
My home
My work
My play
Each night
Each day
Each dark
Each bright
In your light
Forever
May it be
Now
And in eternity

submitted by Marie Robinson

DESERTED ISLAND DISCS by George Cowan

'Desert Island Discs' as a radio programme began on the British Forces Broadcasting Service. In 1942, from the start it used the Eric Coates piece 'By the Sleepy Lagoon' as its signature tune. It later moved to the old BBC Home Service and, in 1967, to Radio 4. Over 3000 episodes have been broadcast. I have always felt that its title is rather incongruous as there are no islands in deserts, but plenty of deserted islands in the Tropics, such as that where Robinson Crusoe was marooned in Daniel Defoe's tale, (based on Alexander Selkirk, a buccaneer from Lower Largo).

I prefer the format of 'Private Passions' on Radio 3, hosted from his spare bedroom by the composer Michael Berkeley, a godson of Benjamin Britten and son of the composer Sir Lennox Berkeley. He has had one hour on Sundays at Noon to talk over the lives and musical tastes of his guests for over 20 years and seems to fit in bigger chunks of their chosen music than Desert Island Discs.

In the very unlikely event of being invited by Michael Berkeley, I would ask for these eight pieces of music which mean a lot to me. 'In no particular order', to coin a phrase.....

Soave sia il vento , the gorgeous trio from *Così fan tutte* by Mozart, hopefully sung by Kiri te Kanawa, Thomas Allen and Agnes Baltsa, whom Bea and I heard live at Covent Garden just before our wedding in 1981.

How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings Fair, a chorus from the Brahms German Requiem, which we loved singing in the St Andrews Chorus and hearing performed by the SCO Chorus in the Younger Hall in the original version with two grand pianos.

The Kyrie from Bach's B Minor Mass. Sadly the thrilling performance of the Mass by St Salvator's Chapel Choir and Tom Wilkinson a few years ago was not recorded in full, but it was a most exciting experience.

Continued on page 8

Deserted Island Discs continued from page 7

Four Last Songs by Richard Strauss, in an almost unbearably moving recording by the great Jessye Norman. She was great indeed and, when invited to enter a concert hall through a revolving door, and finding it impossible, was advised to 'try it sideways', replied 'Honey, I don't do sideways'. This recording meant so much to Bea and me when we lived in Nepal and yearned for beautiful human voices. The camp relay radio offered only a very crackly BBC World News, and pop music requests. On one memorable occasion the 'DJ' was the Glaswegian Sergeant Master Butcher, who, when playing Great Balls of Fire by Dolly Parton, had to stop it suddenly when the turntable burst into flames. Three more vocal records would be on my list.....

Janet Baker singing Go Forth Upon Thy Journey from Elgar's Dream of Gerontius, which Bea and I heard Dame Janet sing live in Greenwich Naval College Chapel as we sat within twelve feet of her.

The Shepherds' Farewell from The Childhood of Christ by Berlioz. This was part of a Christmas Concert by the wonderfully multinational Singapore Chamber Choir in which I sang. During the performance of this and three other pieces conducted by our Director, a tiny Tamil gentleman called Alex, with his violin, we sang on as the Fire Brigade arrived, put out a small fire in the roof of a side aisle, and left. Alex would not believe us when we told him afterwards of this added excitement.

The Heavens Are Telling from Haydn's Creation, with which our church choir in Singapore, which was mainly drawn from the staff of the Military Hospital, took the visiting and Venerable Army Chaplain-General totally off guard when we started it 'con belto'.

As a grand finale I would choose the final movement of Mendelssohn's 'Scottish' (3rd) Symphony, which ends by leaving the 'home' key of A Minor for a grand sweeping A Major march which I feel would make a better Scottish anthem than the dirge-like Flower of Scotland, which I first heard The Corries sing in a pub on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh in 1972 and which was originally written for the Northumbrian bagpipes. I once persuaded an Army Bandmaster to arrange the Mendelssohn to be played at a parade, and very splendid it sounded.

Grace's Briquette Project

In the last church magazine, I wrote about a woman farmer, Grace Mwanguti, and her vision for starting a business in Karonga, Northern Malawi, to turn the waste product from rice milling into a useful fuel for cooking.



This will help ease the lives of women rice farmers who for generations have had the back-breaking job of collecting firewood in the hills and also help to stop the denudation of the hill slopes itself a serious environmental and climate emergency issue. The project will also give women training in management and computing skills, and potentially more confidence in their abilities in a society where women do not traditionally have equality of opportunity with men.

This project has now become reality and the women are busy building sheds and learning about financial management. I have some wonderful photographs and short videos of the women at work on the buildings.



The project encompasses building two brick sheds, providing two briquette making machines, storage, management computing facilities and training and running for the first four months of work. Because of a large spike in Covid cases since November and a high death rate we have now included provision of PPE for the workers and their

families. In consultation with our colleagues in Malawi we agreed to send £1500 from project funds to buy mask making equipment (sewing machines), cloth and sanitising equipment, in order to try to keep the women safe as they work on the project. The Covid spike has now passed but has left much uncertainty. Several politicians are among the dead and because testing is not available to all who might need it, the infection rate and death toll is believed to have been considerably higher than the formal figures show.

Continued on page 10

Grace's Briquette Project continued from page 9

We have increased the initial budget from £7,000 to £10,000 to include the PPE and allow for additional training. So far £3,500 has been donated. We would like this building project to be completed by the time the rice harvest commences in May/June this year when the first rice hasks could be processed.



Women receiving bricks (Grace is in the middle)

As I said in November, through supporting this project we will:

- Support the development of an emerging woman's cooperative
- Make the daily lives of women less arduous
- Contribute to the manufacture of inexpensive cooking fuel for families
- Reduce the problems created by undisposed, rotting rice *hasks* (the Malawi word for husks)
- Help upskill members of this rural community, particularly women
- Support ongoing work against climate change by reducing deforestation.

I wonder if you can help? Please donate any amount no matter how small. I will let you know in the next magazine how things are progressing.

<https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/gracesbriquetteproject>

Once we are able, I will be very happy to share the full story, photographs and videos with the congregation.

*Mary Popple
Chair of JTS and
Trustee of the Balmore Trust*

Things My Dog has Taught Me: About being a better human

Jonathan Wittenberg, Hodder & Stoughton, 2017

Most of us have probably read or re-read more books than usual in the past year. One that stood out for me is 'Things my Dog has Taught Me' I'd be happy to lend my copy to anyone who would like to read it. I first heard of this writer on 'Thought for the Day' on Radio 4. I wanted to know more and so read his book about a long walk he made, down the Rhine valley, partly because I had made the same journey. "Things My Dog has Taught Me" although smaller, also has plenty food for thought in it, covering topics ranging from joy, companionship, and rules to healing, prayer, forgiveness, kinship, and mortality.

You don't have to be a dog or animal lover to enjoy the often humorous stories interspersed with profound, personal reflections on life, theology and philosophy. To quote one instance – "The medieval thinkers described different levels of soul, ranking the 'animal' far below the 'speaking' or the 'intellectual'. No doubt that's true in the refined dimensions of philosophy. But on the wavelength of the heart, through love and joie de vivre, the dog frequently awakens in me a vivid sense of the commonality of life itself, embracing animals and humans, birds and trees. When I think of God, it's that ceaseless flow of being which I mean; the inexhaustible well of existence manifest in people, dogs, rivers, fields and seas."

Jonathan Wittenberg describes himself as a Rabbi, teacher, writer and broadcaster. He weaves in references to the traditions of his faith, and explains how owning a dog helps, and sometimes hinders, his daily routines. The book makes you laugh, but also think. It gives insight into Masorti Judaism – described as traditional and non-fundamentalist – in which he plays a leading part in the UK. He explains that 'Judaism, like all true faiths, teaches us to love God through loving and caring for God's creation. I visit the sick, endeavour to support the bereaved, and study and teach our sacred texts. I strive to understand from my religion how to do what is good, kind and just. I try to learn from people of all creeds and none, and from the world around me, including the animals too.'



Community Hub News

St David's Day was a day for major celebrations. In Wales they celebrated the life of their patron saint, and here in St Andrews the North East Fife Community Hub finally got the keys to the appropriately named St David's Centre at Albany Park. This is a momentous step forward for the Hub, who have been nomadic for the past 3 years, and had resources stored in garages, churches and sheds all across town. While the Hub is very grateful to St Andrew's Episcopal Church, St Andrews United Football Club, and St Leonard's Church and all the shed & garage owners for their hospitality and help, having everything under one roof will be much more efficient. More importantly, it will allow our full range of services to be more accessible.

The Hub usually centres around an inclusive Community Café, where people can socialise, and can also access support services if required. Under current restrictions the Café will have to open for takeaways only in the first instance. However, the Foodbank (Storehouse) and the Clothes Bank are already setting up in the new premises so they can offer help immediately, and be fully operational at the first opportunity. The Café is supported by donations of food from local businesses, and these are cooked into nutritious light meals such as soup, toasties, and frittata. Once restrictions allow indoor socialising, there will be a growing range of services available to help with mental and physical health & wellbeing, housing, finances, and energy use & efficiency. Social activities will include dominoes, singing, crafts, and table tennis on a table donated by one of our church members.

St Leonard's has been supporting the work of the Hub for some time now, both financially, and by accommodating the Clothes Bank during lockdown. With the new premises there will be more opportunities to serve the community through volunteering and fundraising. This will be facilitated by a part time Community Outreach post which St Leonard's is funding for two years. This person will work alongside the Project Manager and volunteers to ensure a warm welcome and the smooth running of the Community Café and associated services.

Continued on page 13

If you would like to show your support for the Hub, become a voting member and be kept up to date with plans and projects for just £1! Volunteering opportunities will be plentiful, and this is one way of keeping in touch. Forms are available from the Church Office. There will shortly be a 'wedding list' available of resources needed which members of the community will be asked to consider purchasing and donating; everything from teaspoons to industrial fridges are needed, so there is something to suit every budget. Please wait for the list though, or we will end up with 3 toasters and no pans! The best way you can support the Hub Café though, is by coming to use it; it is for all in the community.

Jane & Blair Smith



THE LEPROSY MISSION

A new survey carried out ahead of World Leprosy Day in January this year found that more than a third of Scots still thought leprosy was an incurable disease. However, The Leprosy Mission Scotland through its work hopes to see leprosy transmission end by 2035.

Thank you to those who are still collecting through the blue tubs. Once the lockdown is lifted, we will be able to send our donations to TLMS

In the meantime, anyone wishing to donate directly to TLMS please contact me for their Bank details.

Nina Swan



STAMPS

Please keep saving those stamps. You can be part of supporting the work of World Mission that is changing lives simply by collecting your stamps and handing them in at church when it is possible.

Liz Thirkell



STOREHOUSE

There is a particular need at present for UHT milk, toilet rolls and clothes detergent.



Cameron Guild

Members of Cameron Guild decided last year to close our branch of the Guild. This was not an easy decision, but it was felt by most of us that our group had simply become too small to continue to function.

Our branch of the Guild was started in 1929, so it clocked up 91 years of service and fellowship within the kirk and wider community. The wife of the minister at that time, Mrs Gwynnaeth Warren, probably hosted early meetings at the Manse (now Cameron House). Several of the farming families who were founder members still farm in Cameron parish today, the association with Cameron Guild being continued down the generations.

Marie Robinson



LOCKDOWN SHOPPING

Like many during lockdown, Brian Gray spent time decluttering files, and in the process unearthed a lovely poem called Heaven's Grocery Store. It seemed particularly appropriate as Muriel kept the larder well-stocked through weekly Tesco online deliveries. We are fortunate in St Andrews to be blessed with such a variety of grocery stores – Morrisons, Aldi and M&S - but none quite match up to the items in Heaven's Grocery Store.

The premise is that the author sees a sign "Heaven's Grocery Store", the door opens and angels invite him to take a basket. As he shops, he picks up all the items a Christian needs, starting with patience and love and on to prayer, peace and joy and other needs to songs and praises. There is nothing to pay at the checkout because Jesus paid the price a long time ago.

It's a lovely thought particularly at this time of year and in these particular circumstances.

Since the poem, Heaven's Grocery Store is in copyright, it cannot be printed in full, but you can find it online – just put in the title. There is even a YouTube video of the author Ron DeMarco reading it.

Liz's Run

I do not usually encourage requests for sponsorship in the magazine for obvious reasons, however exceptional times call for an exception and here it is.

You may have seen Liz Thirkell running round the various housing estates in St Andrews as I did last week. Liz was clearly a woman on a mission which she is and here is the reason.

Liz is planning to run the equivalent length of the Fife coastal path [117 miles] for Blood Cancer UK. She has chosen to do this as her older sister is struggling with multiple myeloma and amyloidoses and as Liz can't go and see her or do anything to help her out, therefore she thought she would focus on fundraising for a charity that supports research into blood cancers. Liz plans to complete this distance by the 10th May 2021 which is her sister's birthday.

Liz is also running in memory of a close friend who died of multiple myeloma a few years ago and her brother-in-law who died of leukaemia over twenty years ago. Because of COVID, she can't complete a 10k run and she can't go round with sponsor sheets or stop friends in the street. So, she is planning to run the distance of the Fife Coastal Path -117 miles- in eleven weeks, around her favourite running spots in St Andrews.



Liz only runs three times a week, as she says "my 84-year-old body isn't up to any more than that. I also want to prove a new aortic valve is a great help to my keeping fit enough to run just a bit slower than when I started 24 years ago. I started on 15/2/21 - Wish me luck!"

I hope you can see why I am making an exception in this case.
Good luck Liz.

Editor

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/liz-thirkell>

An Update from the St Leonard's Treasurer

When I reluctantly took on the post of Treasurer at St Leonard's almost three years ago, it was with some trepidation. I had been Treasurer of various Clubs over the years, but I knew that that experience and my O level maths in the middle of the last century would not be enough. I was (and sometimes still am) indebted to Hamish Tait for his help and encouragement. I have had a few very stressful days and sleepless nights in the preparation of the Trustees Annual Report. I did not ever think I would be saying this, but I have been grateful during the past difficult year to have had something to focus on and keep my brain active. The report is now a 20-page document the layout of which is quite prescriptive to meet the Scottish Charities Regulator requirements. Jane, in the office, has an electronic version and will send it to you if you ask.*

As far as the accounts are concerned, although donations and offerings are reduced, St Leonard's has been fortunate during lockdown to have members who have given regularly and generously through other means. There was no income from use of premises and fundraising in the usual way was impossible. Luckily, expenditure was also reduced, being restricted to essential maintenance. As a result, the end of year deficit was reduced from last year.

One of my interesting tasks last year was to buy toilets. What, I hear you asking, has that got to do with the church? You will recall the Parish Kids issuing everyone in church with a tube of Smarties. In return you had to fill with coins and return. Over the ensuing months, I banked nearly £600 and was able, on behalf of the children, to buy toilets in Pakistan, Malawi and Cote D'Ivoire. Toilet Twinning have sent certificates which will be displayed in the hall. The Christmas service collections for Marie Curie raised £285.

Our minister, Graeme, is always saying God has a sense of humour. I hope he appreciated my chuckles when I realised that our Church's bank, Clydesdale, has been taken over and will now be Virgin Money!

**Due to current restrictions and regulations we are unable to hold the Stated Annual Meeting, however copies of accounts for both churches are available on request from the office.*

Graeme

The Virtual Gathering in February was a truly astonishing event with over 250 taking part. Solomon Woldertsadik, who has worked for 12 years for Christian Aid in Ethiopia outlined the predicament of so many of his people who are 85% agricultural. The devastating invasion of locusts was there to see on the screen. Tracing hatching sites and spraying were the main responses. The question was raised whether locusts themselves could be a source of food protein. Research is ongoing in the UK. The Luo of Western Kenya use flies as part of their diet. Locusts can travel 200 km per day and threaten 8.3 million people. The Scottish Government has given £122,666 for control of infestation and food security.

See christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/events/gathering 2021.

Christian Aid Week may not be possible as normal, although a delivery-only approach is being considered for the envelopes. Uniquely, it runs from Monday to Sunday 10th to 16th May to enable some of last year's materials to be used. Volunteers are most welcome. Kenya is once again the focus. We aim to assist the building of earth dams to retain water. This is covered in the Spring Magazine which is available in the church vestibule when we reopen or by phoning me on 01334 474872 and I will deliver it if you leave your address.

The Virtual Kilt Walk (kilts not necessary!) is over the weekend 23rd -25th April. Register on website or phone 01334 474872. Participants can walk as sponsored and the Sir Tom Hunter Foundation will add 50%. Join at lmcfarland@christian-aid.org

You will have seen the tragedy of Yemen on your television screen. Christian Aid is active there too. As always, text GIVE to 70040 to donate £5.00 (It can be repeated and Gift Aid added).

To assist in fighting the virus in the developing world give at caid/org.uk/covid19. Cheques can be sent to FREEPOST, Christian Aid. Christian Aid also uses Just Giving as a platform. This saves administration costs.

Petitions for Climate Change Conference COP26 will be available in due course.

George Black

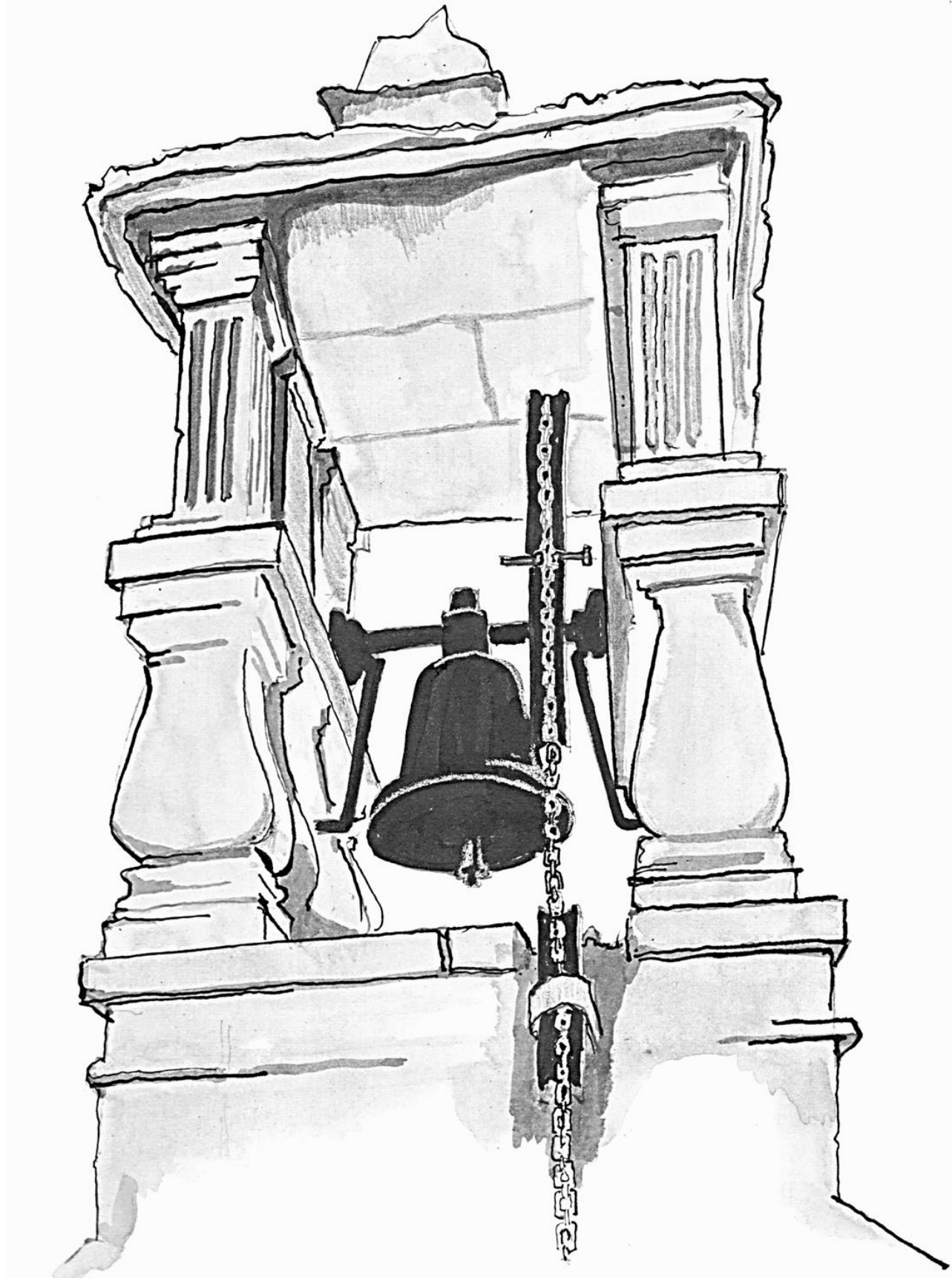
Cameron Kirk Bell Tower

The drawing on the back page shows the bell tower above the entrance at the west end of Cameron Kirk. It has housed the present bell since the 1950s, but it is not known when it was constructed. The church building dates from 1808. In "The Buildings of Fife" (1988) John Gifford noted 'The birdcage bellcote's baluster uprights seem to be re-used from table stones'. It would appear that at least two table-style gravestones were robbed of their 'legs' to create the bell tower, as there are 12 pedestals of three different designs, arranged in two tiers.

Nearby there are two large table-top gravestones resting almost at ground level on small stones, some apparently carved, suggesting that they could well have supplied the necessary legs. One such 'legless' table stone is by the gate into the kirkyard, where several members of the Nicolson family of Radernie were buried. The other rests right outside the entrance to the kirk and has been known to trip up unwary pedestrians in the dark. This stone marks the burial place of three members of the Graham Bonar family of Greigston. The last interments in these graves were made in 1868 and 1869 respectively. Table stones were popular from about 1643, and typically had four or six legs (Willsher, B., 1985, "Understanding Scottish Graveyards"). It is probable that those two gravestones did provide the necessary supports for the bell tower, as the only other horizontal gravestones in the kirkyard are sunken, and seemingly much older.

The current bell replaced an earlier one that was cracked. It was acquired in the 1950s from the former Free Church at Lathones, and is inscribed 1830. Recycling was the order of the day then, as now.

Thanks to Peter Robinson for the sketch and to Marie Robinson for the information about the Bell Tower.



Cameron Bell Tower

Peter Robinson