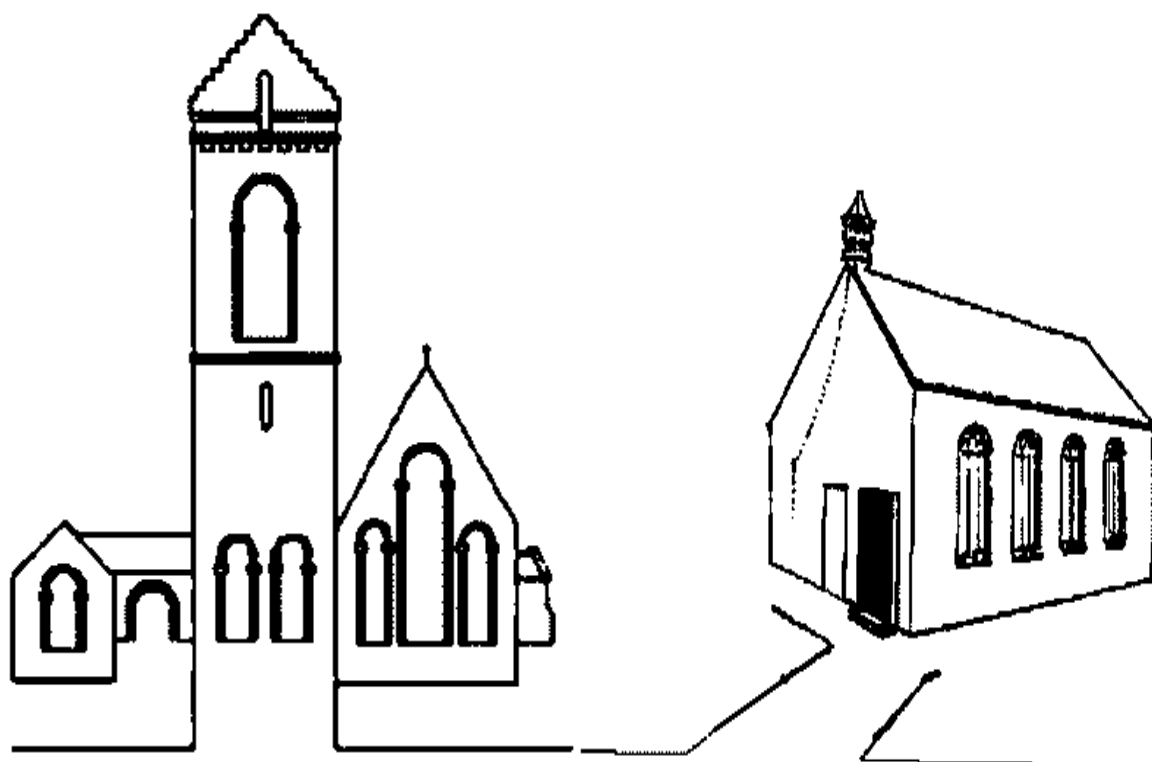


# St Leonard's and Cameron Magazine **AUTUMN 2020**



*View from the Manse*  
*Reopening the churches*  
*Desert Island Discs, Book Reviews*  
*Fair Trade Christmas Cards*

## View from the Manse

Dear Friends

Has this ever happened to you? You've got something on your mind and a half-remembered quote flashes across your memory, but you can't recall where it comes from?

That happened to me this week as I was walking with Bruar up the thirteenth fairway on The Dukes. I was thinking about this letter and something about believing impossible things before breakfast...but where did it come from? And then it hit me. Lewis Carroll's, *Alice in Wonderland*. Alice is telling the Queen of Hearts that she can't believe in impossible things, and the Queen tells her that Alice just hasn't practiced enough. "Why, sometimes," the Queen tells Alice, "I believe in six impossible things before breakfast."

So why was I thinking about the impossible?

Well, it goes back to an email I received around the time St. Leonard's reopened after the long weeks of lockdown. Marion Mason, the Session Clerk at Cameron emailed me to ask how things had gone and to say how much she was looking forward to Cameron re-opening and to me arriving on my bicycle to take the service (I'd cycled to St. Leonard's that morning). See what I mean? Of course, I could make it up to Cameron Kirk on my bike but I'd probably have to leave the house at about 7am and wouldn't be in any fit state to take the service when I got there, never mind have the energy to make it down the road for the service at St. Leonard's! So perhaps it's not impossible but it feels like it.

Right now, it seems like we're surrounded by challenges - in our own lives, in our communities, in our world - and 'though they're not impossible to overcome it can feel like it. I think we'd all hoped things would be easier by now. Instead and as I write, the list of restrictions is growing once more, and no one can say for sure what is going to happen.

It makes me think about something someone else said about impossible things. The disciples are asking Jesus about salvation and he tells them, "For people it is impossible; but for God all things are possible."

*View from the Manse continued from page 2*

Those are words I've returned to over and over again in my life, and I'm not alone in that. Nelson Mandela, a man who knew something about doing what others thought impossible, once spoke about those very words, and added, "It always seems impossible until it's done."

As we continue to live through the strange and unsettling year 2020 has become, we need to believe that we can and will come through this challenging time. We're not there yet, but we will get there...with faith we will get there; and in faith we will rise to the challenge, and do what needs to be done for the least and the lost and the last; helping the people around us to know that with God all things are possible.

Grace and Peace to you.

Your friend and pastor



## **REOPENING THE CHURCHES**

It is anticipated that the Kirk Session of **Cameron** will agree that subject to national Church and Scottish Government advice and guidelines, Cameron Kirk will reopen for worship on **Sunday 11 October** at the usual time of **9.45am**.

The continuing restriction of 2 meters means that there are only 18 spaces available each Sunday, so you **MUST** book your space through the Church Office. Please do not turn up on Sunday and assume you will be able to attend the service

With the reopening of Cameron, **from Sunday 11 October, the St. Leonard's service will revert to its usual time of 11.15am**. St. Leonard's is able to admit 46 people for worship. Again, you must book your space for this service.

Unfortunately, to allow for us to accommodate as many people as possible in both churches, couples will not be able to sit side-by-side.

*Continued on page 4*

## *Reopening the Churches continued from page 3*

To book your space, please email the office on "stlencam@gmail.com" or phone 07703 864 832 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.

Below are some bullet-points which we hope will help you navigate the return to church...

- ⊕ **At Cameron** people will be asked to enter through the Vestry Door.
- ⊕ **At St. Leonard's** you are asked to enter by the front door on Hepburn Gardens.
- ⊕ The service will last for around 40 minutes.
- ⊕ Social distancing should be observed at all times. Stewards will be at the doors and will direct you to seats. Please go directly to your seat.
- ⊕ Face coverings should be worn inside the Church. You are asked to cover your face before entering. You may remove your mask when you have left the building.
- ⊕ An Offering plate will be available as you enter.
- ⊕ Hand Sanitiser will be available by the door into the Sanctuary and should be applied before entering.
- ⊕ We have had to remove the cushions from the pews. Therefore, if you require a cushion to sit on, please bring your own and take it away with you at the end of the service.
- ⊕ There will be music, but unfortunately no congregational singing.
- ⊕ Children and young people are welcome but will stay in the Church for the whole service.

*Continued on page 5*

*Reopening the churches continued from page 4*

- ⊕ After the service is over, please wait in your seat until you have been told you can leave the building.
- ⊕ Sadly, no tea and coffee after the service for the time being.

**For those who have health concerns, please remember that you should use your judgement about whether or not you attend.**

If you have any of the recognised signs and symptoms of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) please stay at home and self-isolate. Common signs and symptoms can include fever; a persistent Cough; and tiredness. Early symptoms of COVID-19 may also include a loss of taste or smell.

For those who decide not to, or who cannot attend we will continue to record and post services on the Digital page of the Website and on Facebook. These services include prayers, readings, a sermon/reflection and music.

**Church Flowers:** At the time of writing no church flowers are being distributed on Sundays. This will continue for the time being.

**Communion:** No firm decision has been taken about if, or how, communion will be shared. A decision will be intimated in due course, after both Kirk Sessions have had the opportunity to consider the matter.

**Remembrance Sunday:** This year Remembrance Sunday falls on the Sunday 8 November, and both Cameron and St. Leonard's will be holding services, details of which will be communicated nearer the time.

**Financial giving to the Church during Covid-19:** If you are able, please keep up to date with your financial giving via standing order or direct debit, or save your envelopes and other financial gifts and bring them to church when you can. If you would like to make a one-off donation to either congregation, please use the new 'Donate' button on the Church website.

There has been a significant impact on Church finances over these weeks and months. Your continuing, or increased, generosity will be particularly important. It enables so much to happen in and around our Churches.

Once again, to everyone who has continued to support both Cameron and St. Leonard's financially...an enormous and heart-felt thank you to you all.

## **BOOK REVIEW - THE THORN BIRDS by Colleen McCullough**

At the beginning of lockdown there was an article in one of the papers entitled Best Reads Ever and I was intrigued how many of the titles I had read and thought some of them might be worth reading again.

One which I thoroughly enjoyed and was well worth the re-read was the 1977 best-seller *The Thorn Birds* by Colleen McCullough. It became a very successful TV mini-series - who will forget Richard Chamberlain as the dreamily handsome and - tortured by forbidden love - Father Ralph de Bricassart. His connection to the Cleary family affects his entire life but conflicts with his ambition to move to the top echelons of the Roman Catholic Church in Rome. The slow-burn love affair with young Meggie Cleary was my overriding memory of the book but the story is much more than that - a magnificent 3 generation family saga set in Drogheda, the huge sheep station in the Australian outback. The harshness of life in the searing heat and drought is reflected in the stoicism of the characters as they face one tragedy after another. No happy ending here but what a read!

*Muriel Gray*

*Nearly one in three people in the UK are turning to books to help them through lockdown, according to a new survey by The Reading Agency. The figures suggest 31% of people are reading more since lockdown restrictions were imposed in the UK. Most are reading fiction, with classics and crime novels proving popular. Many cited reading as a form of release, escapism or distraction during these troubled times, and that having more time was the key to reading more.*

**Vegetable harvest** - There are some vegetables growing in St Leonard's church garden, in the borders beside Hepburn Gardens and Donaldson Gardens, that are ready to harvest, such as kale and kohlrabi. If you would like some, please come along and help yourself. We don't want them to go to waste!

*Maureen Jack*

*Many moons ago at the start of lockdown Anne and David Aitken agreed to share their desert island discs. This is their island bubble! Editor*

## **Desert Island Discs by Anne & David Aitken**

When we were invited to consider our choice of music to take to a desert island, we initially thought this to be an impossible task to whittle our selection down to eight. However, during these last few months of this difficult and unprecedented time, living in isolation and lockdown has been an insight into what it might be like marooned on a desert island. No better time to focus on what we should take, than music which brings back memories. Apparently, we are to be shipwrecked together. Wonderful! Surely an ex Boy Scout and Girl Guide will have the skills to survive!

**'Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start'** – from The Sound of Music. This Rodgers and Hammerstein musical would give us great pleasure thinking of all our family especially the grandchildren and allowing us a good sing song, enjoying the magical story of young folk, and remembering the various musicals we have enjoyed over the years. Yes, let's start with it!

The Beginning for David was in Africa (Malawi) with his mother, father and 4 siblings. The music of Africa is very recognisable with exciting rhythms and enthusiastic singing, unlike anywhere else in the world. We wish to take a copy of **African Sanctus** a choral mass written by David Fanshawe first performed in 1972 and for David memories of the Dark Continent. Must remember to pack the drums!

For Anne, the Beginning was in Kirkwall, Orkney and attending school in Stromness. Happy carefree days, memories of freedom to play on the seashore amid the soft lilt of the musical Orkney tongue. Our choice of music is **Farewell to Stromness** by Peter Maxwell Davies. The daily ferry from Stromness sails from the safe waters of the harbour and Scapa Flow out into the turmoil of the many currents in Hoy Sound, out into the Atlantic and past the Old Man of Hoy.

*Desert Island Discs by Anne & David Aitken continued*

The pop music phenomenon of the 60s was an Australian folk group, The Seekers, who took the world by storm even knocking The Beatles off the top of the charts. Judith Durham their soloist had an outstanding voice and their repertoire included many memorable and extremely popular songs. At that time, David was working in Sutherland and he has great memories of singing in a folk group in East Sutherland, even entertaining the tourists at Grannie's Heilan Hame in Embo on Friday evenings. For his next choice he just must have **The Carnival is Over** by The Seekers.

Anne moved from Orkney to Brechin in the 50s and by luck David was now living in Montrose and, as they say the rest is history! We were married 53 years ago in Brechin Cathedral, at that time a very active and vibrant church. **Widor's Toccata from his Symphony for Organ No 5** will be our next choice with all the happy memories of that day.

In 1976, the year of the Bi-Centenary of the United States of America, David with the RSNO chorus toured the States from west to east singing in 6 cities including Washington, New York and Chicago with programmes including Mahler's 8th, Verdi's Requiem and Walton's Belshazzar's Feast under the baton of such notable conductors as Barenboim, Gibson, Mehta and Previn. One of the most vivid memories of the tour for David was singing on the 4th July in the Hollywood Bowl to an audience of 15,000! His next record choice is **Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus** which was sung on this memorable date and proved to be a truly amazing and moving experience in this vast venue.

During our 46 years as members of Logie Kirk, Stirling, a very picturesque church with Lychgate, sitting at the foothills of the Ochils, we witnessed the gift of several new stained-glass windows. But it was deemed that one window should be left clear so that the view to the hills was uninterrupted. This was also the view from home in Alva. Our next choice is Hymn 81/Ps 121 **I to the hills will lift mine eyes**, a very popular hymn within the farming community and frequently sung. It will be a reminder of some very happy family milestones.



*Desert Island Discs by Anne & David Aitken continued*

We were both introduced to the music of Mahler when David sang in a performance of Mahler's 8th symphony, the Symphony of a Thousand, at the London Proms in 1975. What a performance! However, the Mahler David wishes to take to the desert island is **Mahler's 2nd Symphony, The Resurrection**, another exciting sing which David performed several times with the RSN0 and Glasgow City Chorus. Memories of good friends and fellow singers

We must have some Scottish music but where to begin! Scott Skinner, Jimmy Shand, Burns, Kennedy Fraser and James MacMillan to name a few. The lovely little love song **The Eriskay Love Lilt** has fond memories for us especially when David was invited to sing this with Moira Anderson at her cousin's wedding!

Permission has been granted for us to take additional music, but we will make as our last choice **Mozart's Clarinet Concerto**. During a holiday in 1995, we recall hearing this beautiful music in a tiny 12th century church in Adelboden, Switzerland played by an orchestra from Basle. This music touches the soul written by a composer touched by the hand of God. This was a truly magical holiday experience and with it we also have memories of other exciting holidays in Switzerland.

In addition to the Bible and the complete works of Shakespeare, we both wish to take a book series. For Anne it would be the complete set of the Harry Potter books, so when rescued she will at last be up to speed and impress the grandchildren. David's choice would be Alexander McCall Smith's The No 1 Ladies Detective Agency.

Our luxury item is a tandem bike! David's choice of course for combining exercise and sightseeing, but I will be in the back seat enjoying the views and shouting instructions!

*I am always looking for volunteers to share their Desert Island Discs or Books, please get in touch if you would like to do this. Editor.*

# Puzzle Page

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6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									

These are all anagrams of words associated with the church

1 – common uni

2 – ten hams

3 – tom roared

4 – red les

5 – sad reign

6 – roasting

7 – taint ivy

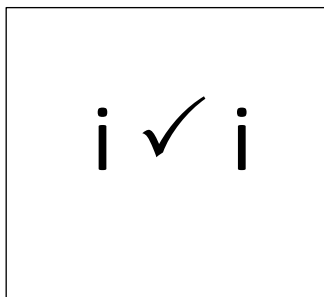
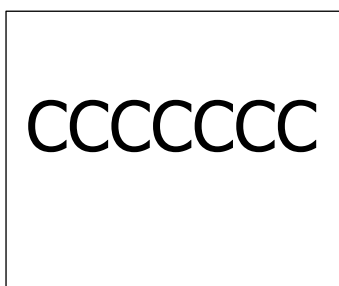
8 – kiosk sirens

9 – merit in

10 – red ears

11 – token yes

## DINGBATS



Answers on page 14

## **Book Review - Animal, Vegetable, Miracle by Barbara Kingsolver.**

Many of you will have read books such as *The Poisonwood Bible* or *Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver. In 2007 she set off on a new direction writing a book which is a diary of how her family lived on locally grown food for a year in the Appalachian Mountains in the US. Why do it? When she had taken time to look at her lifestyle in the desert conditions of Tucson, she saw it to be unsustainable – almost all food flown in from California. How could this be the American dream?

So, she took her family back to her roots in Virginia and started a garden to grow what they could and only buy what could be grown locally. This meant no snack foods, no processed ones, “Six eyes, all beloved to me, stared unblinking as I crossed the exotics off our shopping list, one by one,” wrote Kingsolver. With the exceptions of olive oil, grains and spices, everything they ate was simple and in season.

Viewed through American eyes, which are probably not so different from our own, she believed that many would think this was deprivation, but only because people have grown accustomed to the botanically odd condition of having everything, always, whenever we want to eat it. So *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* provides a helpful shorthand for thinking what questions to raise about what we see in our shops. When a watermelon the size of a toddler has travelled around the world to a supermarket, Barbara Kingsolver suggests rethinking the process of how it got there.

The story is told by different members of her family in different ways as they chart a year of times of plenty and time of scarcity. It is informative, entertaining and full of humour.

At this time when the call to Build Back Fairer campaign is growing in strength and we consider buying local perhaps more than we did before the pandemic this is a good, enjoyable read with a sense of purpose.

*Mary Popple*

## **ST LEONARD'S FAIR TRADE STALL**

This year has been unlike any other year due to the Coronavirus.

Unfortunately, the decision has been made that no orders will be taken for Traidcraft Christmas Cards. However, that does not prevent anyone from looking on the Traidcraft website and placing their own order. With the continuing restrictions this year Christmas cards will matter more than ever to us all with messages from family and friends far and near.

The Traidcraft web site is [traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://traidcraftshop.co.uk) or phone 01914910855. There you will find a variety of cards to suit all tastes and very affordable. And why not add some festive chocolates or biscuits. Remember in purchasing your cards this will be very very helpful to Traidcraft.

Mary Popple has a wide range of JTS goods available – rice, sauces, coconut milk, jams, and marmalades. She is happy to deliver to your doorstep. Please look on the JTS website ([www.jts.co.uk](http://www.jts.co.uk)) and buy direct or get in touch with Mary (01334 478520), "[marypopple@aol.co.uk](mailto:marypopple@aol.co.uk)". Keeping buying on behalf of producers is very important to them as they face this pandemic along with us.

The World Fair Trade Organisation has started a Campaign – Build Back Fairer - which we completely endorse.

A message to you all- 'Keep safe and keep well'.

### **Storehouse**

They need toiletries and household products eg toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo & conditioner, soap, disinfectant spray, clothes wash, wipes, etc.

They are also in need of volunteers with access to a car to help transport food to the drop-in sessions on Tuesdays 9.30-10.00 and Thursdays 13.00-13.30. The role does require the lifting of heavy crates. If anyone is interested and available, contact Lucy Clarke - Tel: 01334 474940 ext 302

## **A Prayer from Bangladesh**

*Bangladesh. A Procession of Prayers: Meditations and Prayers from around the World*  
Comp. John Carden, WCC, and Cassell, London, UK, 1998, p.179. Reprinted in An Order  
of Service for Christian Aid Week, 2016.

O Saviour Christ,  
in whose way of life lies the secret of all life,  
and the hopes of all the people,  
we pray for quiet courage to meet this hour.  
We did not choose to be born or to live in such an age.  
But let its problems challenge us,  
its discoveries exhilarate us,  
its injustice anger us,  
its possibilities inspire us,  
and its vigour renew us,  
for your Kingdom's sake.

## **An Appeal from the Treasurer of St Leonard's**

Firstly, I would like to thank all of you who have set up standing orders, increased existing standing orders, sent me cheques, or handed in money/envelopes to your Elder. St Leonard's is incredibly grateful for all your offerings. If you have not done any of these things, please could you consider doing so?

Although the church was closed for nearly 6 months the bills still came in for salaries, insurance, licences, utilities, Ministry and Mission and Presbytery dues. There was no income from use of premises and no opportunities for fund raising. There was a lull in expenses on Fabric during lockdown, but work is in hand to replace and relocate the boilers.

I know many of you find it difficult to attend church services in the current circumstances, but if you need any help or advice to contribute to the work of the church, please do not hesitate to contact me.

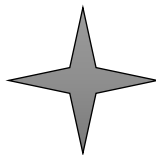
*Joan Peter*                      *01334 473625 joanpeter@btinternet.com*

## Answers to Puzzles on Page 10

1. Communion;
2. Anthems;
3. Moderator;
4. Elders;
5. Readings;
6. Organist;
7. Nativity;
8. Kirk Session;
9. Interim;
10. Readers;
11. Keystone.

Dingbats: - Seven Seas; Right between the Eyes; Can't spell for toffee.

- Never in my wildest of wild dreams did I ever think I would go up to a bank teller and request money with a mask on.
- Definition of Irony - When the Year of The Rat starts with a plague.
- Are locksmiths in lockdown or are they key workers?
- Revised calendar for 2020 – January, February, Lockdown, December



For **Christmas 2020** we would like you to nominate your favourite Christmas film and if there is a wee story behind your choice, please share it. Nominations by **22<sup>nd</sup> November**. You can email it to me, phone me or write it down and give it to me (at an appropriate social distance). I look forward to sharing your stories and revealing what is the most popular Christmas film.

*I hope you have enjoyed the book reviews in this issue. Perhaps you have read something new in lockdown which you could write about or revisited an old favourite. Please put pen to paper or fingers to keys and send it.*

*Editor*

