

Lockdown at Priestfield

Well, it's been a bit of a roller-coaster these last couple of months, hasn't it! Having reopened the church building for Sunday worship on 6 September we had to close again at the beginning of January as the country entered another lockdown.

We had continued our on-line services every Sunday since the first lockdown began in March 2020 so we were well prepared. Each week Donald creates the order of service for the coming Sunday.



A team of willing contributors then use their phones or tablets to record their contributions; welcome, news, call to worship, prayers, bible readings and addresses. Ciaran, our organist records the background tracks for the hymns as well as organ pieces on his organ at home and sends them to Sheila, our choir leader. She records



each part and sends these out to the choir members who record their part and sends these back. The various parts are then melded into a single whole. All the recordings are then gathered together by David, our producer, who adds graphics and continuity to create the finished product. This is posted on our Facebook page so that we can all worship together on Sunday at 10:30 am.

We enjoyed Christmas Carols and a Christmas Eve and Christmas Day on-line service too.

Our prayer support continues. A fortnightly prayer sheet is widely circulated and a more focused 'Prayer Leaves' are distributed when needed by e-mail and by hand to the Prayer Group.



We've been busy working away at Messy Church. We have tried a variety of on-line options from a single hour long programme to a series of episodes shown every Friday. We even enjoyed making Christingles. Our most recent offering has been 'Messy Church in a Bag' on the theme of the Good Samaritan. Families get a bag of goodies that tie in with an on-line post.



What else have we been up to? Our ubiquitous Kirk Session meetings continue, on ZOOM of course, and representatives have been joining with those from neighbouring congregations (including Craigmillar Park) to consider what the church in our area should look like in the future. Presbytery will consider all the inputs as it develops the Presbytery Plan 2022 – 2032.

But, of course, not everyone is on-line so we continue developing *Priestfield Link-Up*. Each member, friend, associate or otherwise connected has a person who looks out for them; provides information and support where it's needed.

Barry Cross
Session Clerk