

# Aberdalgie & Forteviot

(Church of Scotland) OSCR Charity No. SC044503

May 2021



[www.aberdalgieandforteviot.co.uk](http://www.aberdalgieandforteviot.co.uk)

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Dear Friends,

**We are writing to let you know that our minister, Rev. James Aitchison, who has had ill health for some time, is demitting office and will be leaving us next month.**

**We remember him and Louise in our prayers.**



This news means that we shall have to confront some changes!



We live in a world which seems to have so many changes happening - Brexit, the pandemic and its consequences, and the passing of many older people in many families, including the Duke of Edinburgh. Many are stressed or hurting. A group of young people in P+K recently said that they were a bit bewildered "in a scary confused world". The vaccines have offered hope of getting on top of the virus. But people wonder what the future holds in a world of increasing numbers of refugees, and the problems stemming from climate change. People long for a positive note of hope.

This is what Easter was all about! It is not only a date evidenced in history, but also a new dimension of a "sure and certain hope".

Lockdown did not work that first  
Easter



While the injection of the vaccine counters the virus, God's injection in Jesus into this world, then, was so that now we might experience His love and find our real identity - we are not just a biochemical mix, but in the earthly container we are people who matter to God. It is not a religious system, but a relationship with God that is offered to us. That relationship then transforms all our other relationships, local and global, personal and in society.

In light of the news (above), an interim moderator will be appointed for our parish to handle the administrative aspects of the vacancy. However, all Christians are called to celebrate the risen Jesus, by growing in our relationship with the living God, by sharing the good news of the living Jesus and by showing His care in P+K and specifically in our communities.

It is a great privilege for me to try to be of some help at this strange time: don't hesitate to get in touch if you think that I can be of help. With warm prayerful good wishes, **Sandy**

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## From the Session Clerk:

It is indeed sad that James will be leaving us, for reasons of ill health, and that we will not be seeing him again as our minister. I feel sure you will join me in sending our good wishes to James and Louise, thank them for their ministry, and offer them our prayers for the future. I understand that James himself will be communicating with both the Elders and the congregation before he leaves.

Meanwhile Rev. Sandy Gunn has very kindly agreed to carry on leading worship in our parish while further discussions take place.

These are challenging times while we await further information from Presbytery regarding the future; but we are managing, and will continue to do so. When we have more detailed information, we will of course keep you informed.

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## Worship in our parish

There will be a service of worship in Forteviot church on **Sunday, May 16th at 10:00 a.m.**

The Kirk Session has agreed that we reopen **Aberdalgie** church for worship on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June**, the first Sunday in the month; and that we worship at **Forteviot** on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June**, the third Sunday in the month. All services will start at 10:00 a.m. We propose to continue on this basis each month until the Covid restrictions ease or are removed.

On the second and fourth Sundays of the month there will be a service at Dunning, and if there is a fifth Sunday, there will be no service in either parish; but **every Sunday** a sermon and prayers will be on our website – [www.aberdalgieandforteviot.co.uk](http://www.aberdalgieandforteviot.co.uk).

*Please remember that if you would like to attend worship in either of our church buildings you need to email or ring me in advance, to book a place. This is so that we comply with the track and trace rules. Please also remember to wear a face covering.*

*Roger*

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## Prayer

**If I had to suggest one prayer that will strengthen us and bring us peace I would simply offer the word “Jesus”. Sister Wendy Beckett**

For 25 years a Confidential Prayer Chain has been operating across the linked parishes of Aberdalgie and Forteviot with Aberuthven and Dunning. The Prayer Chain exists primarily so that we can pray for each other: for healing, to provide support for those in need, whether they are members of our parishes or not. Anyone can request prayer support for anything - especially for any person known to us. If you would like to ask for prayer please do not hesitate to get in touch with an elder—there are leaflets in both of our church buildings with more detail about how to contact the Prayer Chain.

**Pray for each other so that you may be healed. James 5v15**