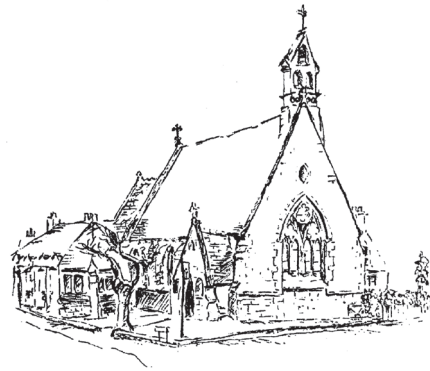


# St.Saviour's Church, Bridge of Allan

# Newsletter



 @SaintSaviours | [www.saintsaviours.org](http://www.saintsaviours.org)

April - May 2022

## Dear Friends,

When you read this letter, we will have entered into a new season in the Church year, the season of Easter. In our services we'll be celebrating the new life that emerged from the death of Jesus. Although he carried the scars of his suffering, the risen Christ who appeared in Jerusalem and Galilee, was not the same as before. Through his Spirit, we, like his first followers, are offered an opportunity to be transformed, to be freed from any fear, pain or guilt associated with our past, and receive new life.

At St Saviour's under the leadership of the Vestry, we have spent the last three months laying the foundations of our new life as a church as our world has emerged from the pandemic. Too many of you have been involved in this process for me to acknowledge you individually, but in this first edition of the newsletter, I think it is important to take stock and give thanks for all that has been achieved so far.

A Ministry Team made up of our two Lay Readers and myself are now meeting monthly to review and plan worship, reporting to Vestry and liaising with our visiting clergy. New members have joined the Sacristans' Team and Readers Rota and a training session for new Intercessors is being planned. The choir is meeting again and contributing to special services and plans are in hand for Young Church to resume after the summer. A Pastoral Care Team is being put together to ensure that those unable to attend church are visited regularly. The new Safer Recruitment process of the Scottish Episcopal Church will be implemented, pastoral visitors will be well supported and will meet quarterly to share experiences and pray together.

Our first step in community outreach will be to open the church during the week from Easter, providing a peaceful space for prayer and reflection. This has required a great deal of thought and preparation in order to ensure the safety of visitors and the security of the building. In addition, work on a general Health and Safety Policy has also been done, Data Protection forms and Photo Consent forms issued, and various risk assessments and plans drawn up.

Vestry has responded to the need for more effective communication within the congregation by setting up a group which has been contributing news items and notes from Vestry meetings to the weekly pew sheet which is

distributed to every member. The group is also reviewing the church website, maintaining a presence on Facebook, investigating the possibility of live streaming services and has produced this newsletter.

The Property Group have resolved a number of issues concerning the fabric of the Rectory and Hall. Now that the work by Rentokil is complete, most of the remaining tasks can largely be done by volunteers. Since it has been discovered that the church's heating system can be mended, the plan to invest in a new eco-friendly system has been put on hold. Vestry is proposing to start work on an Environmental Action Plan and to measure the church's carbon footprint according to a Toolkit produced by the diocese which may reduce heating costs and bring about other savings.

With no major items of expenditure planned, no stipend or Rector-related costs to pay and with congregational giving steady, it is likely that there will be a surplus at the end of the year. This puts us in a good position to start planning for the future. It is important, however, before we do so to pause to discern what kind of church God is wanting St Saviour's to be. Vestry has arranged to meet in May to start envisioning the future and to develop a set of aims on which a long-term strategy can be based. In the meantime, all members of the congregation are invited to contribute their thoughts and feelings about the strengths of St Saviour's now and the directions in which it could take in order to ensure its long-term future. I would also ask you all to continue to pray for each other and for the life of the church because, in the words of Psalm 127, 'unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain'.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and of my commitment to support you in every way I can.

With love, Nerys

# A Message From Your Lay Readers

*Sue White writes;*

Once again, thank you for your support in these trying times. Nick and I will help you in any way we can as regards worship and sick visiting where it is appropriate. Very soon Gillian Burr and Sue White hope to get Young Church off the ground but of course Gillian cannot do this on her own she will need help and helpers will have to be PVG cleared.

## Holy Week Services are as follows:

Monday 11th April at 7.30pm - Compline

Tuesday 12th April at 7.00pm - Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 13th April at 11.00am - Said Eucharist

Thursday 14th April at 7.00pm- Foot Washing

Friday 15th April at 2.00pm - Good Friday Liturgy  
with Bishop Ian at St. Mary's Dunblane

Easter Sunday 17th at 10.00am - The Ven. Peter Potter - Easter Bonnets, Eggs etc.

### Clergy Rota to Trinity Sunday:

April 24th Sue and Nick

May 26th Ascension Day Joint evening service

May 1st Rev Joan Lyon

May 29th Rev Joan Lyon

May 8th Sue and Nick

June 5th The Ven. Peter Potter

May 15th Rev Val Nellist

June 12th Sue and Nick

May 22nd Sue and Nick

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## A Musical And Spiritual Treat: Compline

*Alastair Duncan writes;*

You are warmly invited to the service of Compline to be held in Saint Saviour's on Monday 11 April at 7.30 p.m. This traditional evening service, peaceful and serene, is composed of readings, prayers and plainchant to be sung by Saint Saviour's choir. The service will be conducted by the Ven. Peter Potter. The choir is directed by Alan Clarke, a former organist and choirmaster of Saint Saviour's.

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## Young Church News

*Gillian Burr writes;*

Bring your bonnets on Easter Sunday. We'd love to see them. Our first Young Church session for 2 years will be held on Easter Sunday. We will be having Easter themed crafts and activities. All welcome.

Looking further forward we are giving some thought to holding our garden party again this year. This would be an event not just for Young Church, but for the whole congregation.

# *Saint Saviour's: Open Church*

From Easter Monday, 18 April, Saint Saviour's will be open every day of the week, for services on Sunday and Wednesday and for private prayer and reflection during the rest of the week. Prayers and other suitable material will be available at the back of the church. Jean Kelly and some helpers have been knitting little Easter chickens which visitors are invited to take away with them. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to drop in during Easter week to enjoy the wonderful display of flowers.

Sunday: Sung Eucharist at 10.00am

Monday and Tuesday: Open 10.00am to 4.00pm

Wednesday: Eucharist at 11.00am - Open until 4.00pm

Thursday, Friday, Saturday: Open 10.00am to 4.00pm

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## *News From The Vestry*

*Mike Horne writes;*

### **New Teams**

The new Vestry has now had three months to settle in and look at the tasks facing it in the (almost) post Covid era. The Vestry, with the Rector, has responsibility for all aspects of the life of St. Saviour's but, perhaps inevitably, the fabric of the Church has loomed large in its deliberations so far. Even so, to ensure that the larger picture has not been neglected, a number of teams have been formed to involve as many people as possible in the operation of the Church and to ensure that the many diverse views are reflected in the decisions made. Importantly, Alastair Duncan is heading up a "communications" operation with the newsletter, pew slips and websites as key tools, to ensure that issues are discussed openly, Bill Logie has created a team of willing bodies prepared to give their time and skills to the Fabric and others such as the Craft Group, Gardening gurus and Cleaning persons quietly ply their trades to the benefit of us all.

### **The Rectory and Hall**

The role of the Rectory and Hall in the life of the Church has not yet been decided. The Vestry will hold a special meeting at the end of May to focus on this issue and, to inform its deliberations, a survey is being circulated to everyone in the congregation to seek your views. What sort of church does the congregation want St Saviour's to be; in other words what do you value in what we do at the moment and how would you like to see that evolve or change? How would the Hall and Rectory fit into this future view? Should the property be sold or should it be treated as an on-going source of revenue? Could it be used as an opportunity for greater out-reach? It is very important that your views are taken into account by the Vestry in drawing up any proposals for the future so please make sure that you complete the communication team's survey.

Meanwhile, the Hall has been cleaned and decorated now that Rentokil has departed and the lower storey is ready for use albeit with no heating at the moment. The Rectory is now in a maintenance mode, water-tight and regularly checked.

### **The Future**

Covid, the roof repair and the departure of the Rector have all brought big changes to Saint Saviour's and this has not been easy for everyone. On the other hand it is no bad thing that we continue to look closely at everything that we do and try to improve it without making change for changes' sake. To do this and to achieve anything worthwhile we need everyone to be involved, so please keep chasing your Vestry members with ideas, criticisms or comments. Only then can we be sure that what is being decided truly reflects your views.

# Prayer Shawl Ministry

*Jean Kelly writes;*

If anyone knows of someone who would benefit from receiving a shawl, please contact Jean Kelly on 0771 588 5582 or email [jeankelly@live.co.uk](mailto:jeankelly@live.co.uk) and I will try to arrange it, depending upon availability. We have seven knitters at the moment but it is open to all and we would welcome newcomers.

Prayer Shawl  
Ministry



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## St Saviour's Property

*Bill Logie writes;*

There is a vestry sub-committee comprising Bill Logie (Property Convener), Melvyn White, Sue Horne, Sylvia Broomfield (Health and Safety Advisor), and Brian Bridgewater. Always ready to have your comments on what work might be called for!

Work on the fabric also comes from outside this group, for which we are most grateful. Alex Glover has very kindly taken on the formidable task of refurbishing the hall door and has approached the task with skill and vigour!

Though having been assured that the church heating system was beyond economic repair, and having taken steps to replace it with a eco-friendly scheme, it turns out that the present heaters can be repaired. This will save the church from digging too deeply into its diminished financial reserves. Though the gas heaters have a heavy carbon footprint, they are very effective, and alternative "green" systems are not yet fully developed for buildings like St Saviour's. Moving away from gas will remain an objective. The cost of repair is around £2,500, and is likely to proceed shortly – in time for the less cold months of summer! The fortitude of the congregation in turning up to a cold building is commendable!

The outbreak of dry rot around the entrance to the hall spread into a small part of the rectory and has now been comprehensively dealt with. The consequential mess has been tidied up by kind volunteers and the hall can now be used. Health and Safety issues – particularly fire escape - preclude the use of the upstairs rooms for the time being. Again, heating of the hall is currently dependant on temporary electric heaters until the gas heaters and flues can be dealt with, and this will be part of the review of the future of the hall.

Following the quinquennial report of 2020 there have been various jobs around the rectory to ensure that it is weather tight. A number of relatively small jobs remain and will be reviewed in the context of its future use.

Work is progressing on the inventory of St Saviour's assets, from the number of hymn books to the documentation of the past; from the history of the windows to the technology of the sound system. To this inventory we hope to add soon the addition of new chairs. The supplier, hampered we are told by supply problems induced by Covid, has been extremely dilatory about keeping us advised inspite of persistent chasing. The latest is that they can be expected in the next week or two.

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## Produce A Peace Pigeon (Dove) For Pentecost

*Sue Horne writes;*

Produce a Peace Pigeon (Dove) for Pentecost – some to take home and make like this one, some to assemble from card and decorate at a Peace Pigeon workshop. Date to be announced.







Solace



Easter 2020



Wedding

## Flowers In St. Saviour's

*Sandra Rutt writes;*

It's not unusual to find fresh flowers placed in a church, they show that devoted church goers are helping to keep the life and spirituality of the church ever fresh for the congregation and visitors. A church is full of visual symbols and beautiful views and fresh flowers and foliage bring the living, growing, and dying natural world into the church. A great deal of thought, prayer, memories and celebration go into our flowers. We choose colours, flowers and foliage that tell the story of the church year or represent life events (baptisms, weddings, funerals), using material from our own gardens, the church garden, hedgerows, florists, supermarkets and will even source special requests on the internet - but our aim is always to give joy and solace to those who come into the church.

Deeper thoughts are important, especially in stressful times, but we have fun too. During lockdowns we missed being able to work together in the church at Easter and Christmas. Before Covid struck we would all work together. The church was open and as we worked, Angèle, who had already arranged her flowers, and Molly, who had already polished the silver and brass, would serve us all hot coffee and cake. Friends and passers-by would drop in to see the decorating going on and have a chat.

Harvest, October 2021... at short notice we found we were not able to have services, but - wearing masks - we decorated anyway and took these super pictures!

Harvest 2021

The church being locked was distressing but Sue Horne made us all feel brighter when she invited us to help with the outdoor art displays at Easter and Christmas. When we were advised to avoid meeting in groups, even outside, Sue took care to ask helpers to bring their display items at staggered intervals. People stopped to look and said, "Thank you for cheering us up."







Easter during lockdown 3 April, 2021...

We have been as careful as possible throughout the pandemic, and we have kept going. For the first Sunday service back in the church there were fresh flowers in church and, thanks to our Flower rota team, every week excepting Advent and Lent. We will be decorating again this Easter Saturday (fingers crossed) and we have been promised hot cross buns to keep us going. I know before we start that the church will look lovely. See you there!



# Communications At Saint Saviour's

*Alastair Duncan writes;*

Following lockdown, the Vestry set up a communications subgroup chaired by Alastair Duncan. Thinking of those who couldn't get to church services, its first recommendation was to issue the weekly pew slip/information sheet by email in advance of the Sunday service. Since January, Sandra Rutt has been editing, designing and dispatching the e-pew sheet – and messages of appreciation have been sent back to us. Paper copies are delivered to members of the congregation who don't use email. Other ways of communicating have been redistributed or taken up by volunteers. James Gardner updates the Saint Saviour's website, with input from Alastair Duncan and Andrew McDowell. James Gardner and Vanessa Berridge contribute to our Facebook pages. Alastair and Anne Williamson refresh the notice board at the bus stop. Margaret Price places our weekly notice in the Stirling Observer. Andrew McDowell and Jackie Macpherson continue their responsibility for the newsletter which is planned to appear every two months and will appear shortly after a Vestry meeting. Like the pew slip, it will contain up to the minute reports of Vestry discussion and decisions.

Further work needs to be done, particularly on the website. In the longer term, the Vestry will explore the idea of live streaming services, something which many churches began in lockdown and have since developed. If you are not currently on the congregational email list to receive the weekly e-pew sheets and the newsletter but would like to be, please get in touch with Alastair at [abduncan111@gmail.com](mailto:abduncan111@gmail.com).

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## Survey On The Future Of St Saviour's: Have Your Say

*Alastair Duncan, Alison Logie and Margaret Price write;*

As St Saviour's opens up again after Lockdown and people are getting together again, the Vestry would like to know how members of the congregation feel about St Saviour's now and how you see its future. We want to form a picture of the needs and aspirations of the congregation so that we can discern what kind of church God is wanting St Saviour's to be. We can then develop a set of aims on which a long-term strategy can be based.

Please feel entirely free to respond in your own way, either in a few sentences or at greater length. Responses to the survey may be returned by email ([abduncan111@gmail.com](mailto:abduncan111@gmail.com)) or in person to Alastair Duncan, Alison Logie and Margaret Price. If you wish to respond anonymously you can drop your reply into the box at the back of the church.

It would help the Vestry, for instance, if you were able to group your remarks under some of the following headings;

- our forms of worship
- the age range of the congregation
- pastoral care and support
- our social activities
- our relations with other churches
- our relations with the wider community
- our means of communication within St Saviour's and beyond.

Under each heading consider answering these questions about our present and future:

What is good about the life of Saint Saviour's now?

What is missing in the life of St Saviour's?

What should be done differently to secure a long-term future for our church?

If you have not or have only occasionally returned to Saint Saviour's since Lockdown, it would be helpful if you could say whether changes at church could make attendance easier for you.

Once the responses are in, three Vestry members – Alastair, Alison and Margaret – will sort them by theme and send the sorted responses anonymously in full to the Vestry. They will help inform a special meeting of the Vestry to envision the future of the church to be held on 23 May.

To give ample time for responses to be sorted and for Vestry members to reflect on them, please return your responses by Sunday 1 May.

# The Church Garden

Maggie Moss writes;

The season opened on March 19th when six members of the team met for a work party. Our system of caring for the garden has changed. As you know, I think, under the old system one or two people took on a month between March and September (inclusive) and were responsible for the whole month. We have decided no longer to have a rota but for any member of the team who is available to come along to the church garden at 10.30 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month. We are making an exception in April when the third Saturday falls at Easter weekend, so the next work party will be on April 23rd, the fourth Saturday. Of course, you don't have to be a member of the garden team to come along. Anyone is welcome.

The snowdrops have been lovely and are multiplying nicely. Other bulbs and herbaceous plants are surfacing. We have a beautiful new addition, an ornamental cherry, *Prunus Kursar* coming into flower. The leaves have lovely colour in the autumn. It has been planted in memory of John Macpherson, Jacquie's late husband. It needs all the water it can get, so if you are passing and have time, there is a watering can and a tap to hand.

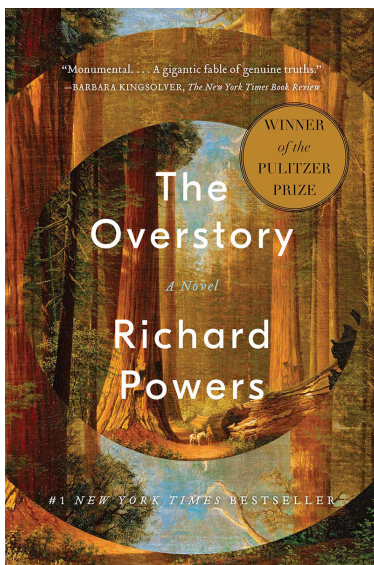
Our thanks to Mike and Brian, who have cleared the fallen and rotting fence. This has enlarged the garden at the back. The old pew, which used to be against the fence is sadly no longer safe and should not be used.

Thanks to all who give their time to our garden. Please make use of it. It is there for everyone.

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## Book Group Report

Pam Bridgewater writes;



### The Overstory by Richard Powers.

Richard Powers' Pulitzer Prize winning book is a powerful, complex story about the interconnectivity of people, of trees with other flora and fauna and of all humans with nature.

In the opening chapters, titled *Roots*, we are introduced to eight strong characters who are growing up in various parts of the U.S.A. These diverse people are cleverly brought together, united by a love of trees and a deep understanding of how crucial this complex ecosystem is to the survival of mankind. A research scientist, a couple with marital problems, a highly successful computer programmer, a psychologist, an artist and other diverse characters find their lives changed by trees. Some of them join a fight to save 900 years old trees from being clear felled for short term gain, but their peaceful protests are no match in a struggle against powerful big business. In a powerfully written section, the passion and frustration of a few campaigners leads to law breaking and a terrible tragedy.

It is only very near the end of this long book that seeds of hope are sown again.

The members of the Book Group had many varying and diverse reactions to this book; a good basis for an animated discussion. Two ladies found it impossible to finish reading without skimming sections. They felt lectured at by the author and that there was too much scientific information for a novel. Although we all agreed that the middle section of the book was too long and tedious in places, some of us still enjoyed the story overall, found the scientific facts about trees added depth to the story, liked the well drawn characters and appreciated some lyrical, enchanting writing.

Love it or hate it, *The Overstory* has an important message to deliver. We all need trees.

The Book Group's next meeting is on Thursday 12th May when we will discuss Peter Ustinov's *The Old Man and Mr. Smith*. It is said to be a much easier, witty read in contrast to the last book. If you are interested in joining us for an interesting, sociable afternoon, please contact Maggie Moss for details.



# Pilgrimages

*Liz Wrathmell writes;*

The Diocesan Synod in March discussed the topic of pilgrimages. The Episcopal church and Church of Scotland are working together to develop pilgrimages. Inspired by the Lutheran churches in Germany and Scandinavia, this involves changes in the use of church buildings, prayer walks and reflective conversations. Dunfermline Abbey is to play a key role with the recruitment of a Pilgrim Pastor by the Church of Scotland.

A pilgrimage is to be held this summer in Kent based on the footsteps of William of Perth between Rochester and Canterbury, aimed at adults capable of walking a reasonable number of miles each day.

The St Andrews and Three Saint way will take place on 5th - 10th September. Individuals can join and leave the pilgrimage along the way. A climate change /creation pilgrimage is being developed due to the suspension of the planned Holy Land pilgrimage because of Covid issues in Israel. This is ecumenism in practice: the mini pilgrimage of September 21 from Ceres to St Andrews, covering 40 miles, was a success and feedback was encouraging.

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## The Walking Group

*Anne or Alastair Williamson write;*

The Walking Group has continued to enjoy interesting walks this term with traditionally dry, good weather!

It makes such a difference to be together and share the same experiences that sadly lacked during Covid!

We have our traditional start to each term at the University and then when the season dictates, enjoy snowdrops at Gargunock House Estate.

A stunning walk to Beecraigs Country Park, Linlithgow at the beginning of this month, circumnavigating the loch, which was manmade by German POW.

Historical walks in and around Bannockburn, including the Mill Trail, featuring the C16th Spittal's Bridge, Bannockburn's oldest bridge and the famous battlefield.

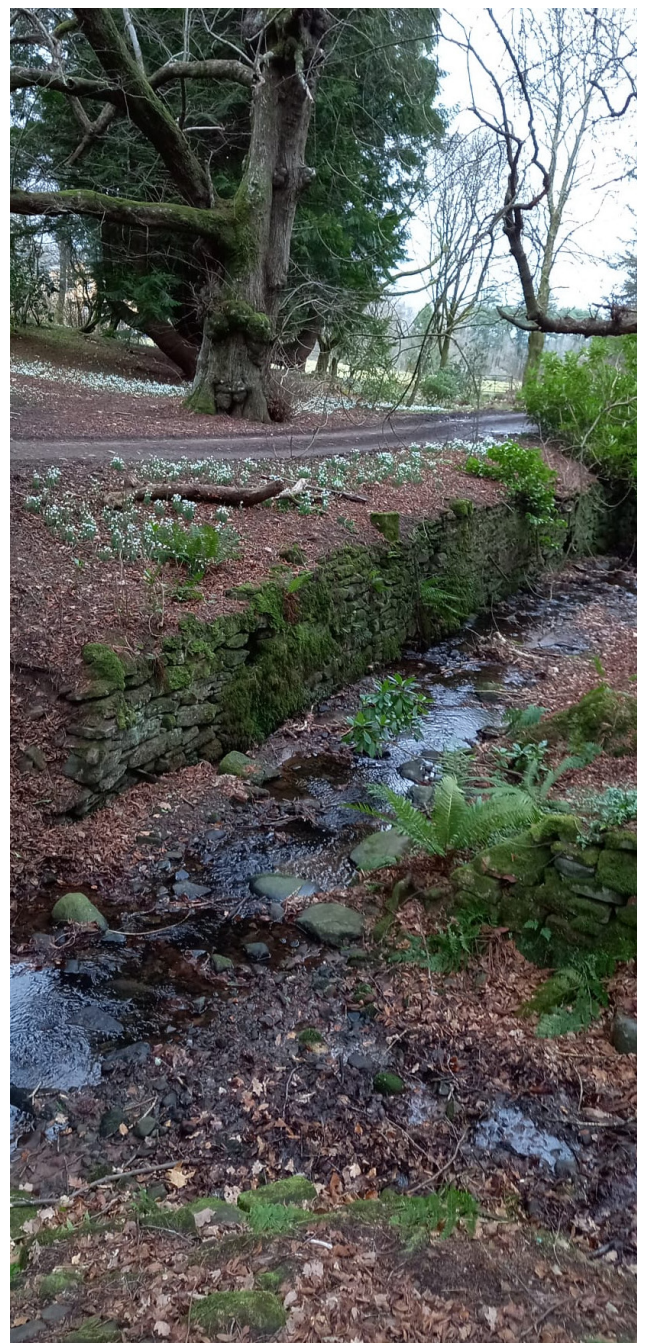
This week, we enjoyed walking round the Golf Course at Gleneagles, with its interesting history & spectacular views.

(The only Course in Europe to host both the Ryder Cup and Solheim Cup.)

Our last walk before Easter, will be a river walk by Cornton.

Walks will resume on Tuesday the 19th April.

Contact either, Anne or Alastair - 01786 833588.



Gargunock House Estate





Beecraigs Country Park



Spittal's Bridge at Bannockburn



Golf Course at Gleneagles



# Health & Safety Update

*Sylvia Broomfield writes;*

Whilst we hope that St Saviour's Church has always taken the Health & Safety of its congregation and friends seriously, the advent of Covid19, tightening of UK and Scottish Law and changes to the way we all communicate with each other, including the use of social media, has meant that many procedures now have to be formalised.

This has resulted in the need to get written agreement for us to hold data about those we keep in touch with. You should have received forms either in Church or with the pew slips that allow us to keep your email address etc. on file. If you have not returned them, please remember that without, your signature, we cannot continue to send you news of our services and other activities. We ask that you hand them in to Alastair Duncan as soon as possible. Our newsletter is much more interesting as it contains photographs so remember that although your personal details will not be used, we need your permission to use your image too. If you have not received any forms, please contact Alastair Duncan or the Communications team

The reopening of the Church following the Roof Project, and use of the Church Hall after the dry rot treatment, have necessitated an overhaul in terms of safety, particularly Fire Safety, and this work is well under way with updated signage, alarms and procedures all currently being addressed. Please bear with us while this is being completed and if there is something connected with safety that you think we may not be aware of, feel free to draw my attention to it.

St.Saviour's Secretary e-mail address: [secretary@saint-saviour.org](mailto:secretary@saint-saviour.org)

If you need a priest, please contact  
Rev Nerys Brown at St.Mary's Church Dunblane Tel. 01786 824225



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