

## East Kilbride Old Parish Church

SC000609

### Responding in Challenging Times:

#### Minister's East Kilbride News Message No 2

I hope you remembered to put your clocks forward in the early hours of Sunday morning, although I have to admit that most of my clocks do it for you these days. We usually lament about losing an hour in bed, but this year we've also lost an hour in isolation. If only we could turn the clocks forward a couple of months!

The forwarding of the clocks always happens in Spring, and as I was writing to our church members this week, I was reminding them of the signs of new life we see all around us at this time of year. We're living in very difficult and challenging times, but can you imagine if this situation had occurred six months ago when we were in the Autumn? Then we were facing ever darkened days and ever colder days. At this time of year it is the opposite, so the daylight hours are increasingly longer, and hopefully, the weather will be getting warmer.

Over the winter months, bulbs and seedlings have been in the ground, dormant during the ice, snow and bitterness of the weather. Now they are coming to life, having survived all that winter has thrown at them, and they are coming into life. I hope that wherever you are isolating, you can see some green space and maybe even some daffodils or crocuses. They are surely a symbol of our lives at this time. No matter how dark or cold the winter was, when the time was right, they burst into bloom, for the winter did not go on forever. So too as we go through this unprecedented period, have to remember that it will not go on forever. We don't know how long, but it won't be forever.

One of the most emotional times this last week, was on Thursday evening at 8pm when everyone came together to applaud the people who are at the front line keeping this country going. It was quite an emotional moment as neighbours shouted from a distance, and in our street, one neighbour also had a very loud bell, and in the distance we could see fireworks light up the sky. It was a magical moment, and I can only hope that when this period of isolation ends, we don't forget that spirit of all being in this together, and our appreciation for what others are doing.

We are sailing in uncharted waters at this time and we're having to do things differently. But I wonder if it's also a time where we take stock of our lifestyles and our priorities. My hope would be that when this crisis is over, we don't just return to life as it was, but that we learn from the experience and change the ways we think about things. Someone posted the words of Dave Hollis. He says, *"In the rush to return to normal, consider which parts of normal are worth rushing back to."* Wise words indeed!