

Bishopriggs Churches Together **For New Year 2021**

I do hope that as you receive this you have all enjoyed a pleasant, meaningful Christmas despite all the restrictions and conditions, all of which we know were necessary and for the good of everybody. We trust that the cooperation we've given will pay dividends for our country.

As we look to January, you'll recall that our first meeting has always reflected on the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which focuses on daily thoughts between the 18th and 25th of the month. This would be chosen by the country in the world asked to contribute by bringing a reflection in their style of worship.

The Week of Prayer 2021 has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme that was chosen was "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit" based on John 15 vs 1-17 and expresses Grandchamp's community vocation in prayer, reconciliation and unity in the church and the human family.

To add a little more background, the Grandchamp community had its origin in Europe in the 1930s when a group of women from the reformed tradition sought to rediscover the importance of silence and listening to the Word of God. Today the community has 50 sisters, all women from different generations, church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion. They remain faithful to a life of prayer, life in community and the welcoming of guests. The sisters share the grace of their monastic life with visitors and volunteers who visit Grandchamp for a time of retreat, silence, healing or in search of meaning in their lives.

Printed materials are not available this coming year and as you can appreciate no service this January. However written reflections and a service are available at www.ctbi.org.uk There is positivity too as in this special week you can still connect by listening to their common prayer online at - www.grandchamp.org/prier-avec-nous I hope this is something that you can enjoy participating in at a time that suits you. There is an additional connection to listen to their hymns at - www.grandchamp.org these broadcast services may be restricted due to covid19. At this time of uncertainty this sounds ideal and something to bring serenity into our lives. Written resources are available online at www.ctbi.org under resources.

I add my own word to you as I think again of the Orkney POWs building their Italian chapel to communicate with God meaningfully to them and now these sisters in Grandchamp doing the same this New Year. In these varied ways of reaching out to God in worship, may we also be assured that God is always reaching out to us as our Heavenly Father.

God Bless

Alison Little - Convenor BCT