

WEEKLY CONGREGATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Thought For The Week
Sunday 4th October

Some Lovely Thoughts.

May you have;
Laughter to kiss your lips
Sunsets to warm your heart
Beauty for your eyes to see
Friendship to brighten your being
Comfort on difficult days
Smiles when sadness intrudes
Hugs when spirits sag
Rainbows to follow the clouds
Patience to walk through long days
Sunshine to warm your being
Confidence for when you doubt
Courage and compassion to know yourself
Joy when celebrating dreams
Love and friendship to warm our hearts
and
Faith so you can Believe.

East Neuk Trinity

Sunday morning services

1st and 3rd Sundays in Elie Church

2nd and 4th Sundays in Kilconquhar Church

5th Sundays to be arranged.

Before coming to church please take time to read the arrangements that are in place to allow us to safely meet together for worship. These are attached with this email.

Gift for New Minister

It is a tradition for congregations to give a gift of welcome to a new Minister. Due to a change in OSCR regulations members of the congregation are invited to give a donation towards this if they wish.

If you would like to make a donation towards a gift for Douglas this can be done in various ways. You can pop a donation through the letter box at the church hall and mark the envelope as 'gift for new minister' you can make a donation directly into the bank account (details are below) again with the reference 'gift for new minister' or you can make a donation at the church services. Donations need to be in by today **Sunday 11th September**.

Ordination of Douglas Ross Creighton.

On Friday 16th October Mr Douglas Ross Creighton will be ordained as Minister for East Neuk Trinity linked with St Monans in Elie Parish Church.

Due to Covid restrictions this service will be lived streamed and you can watch the service by clicking on the link below.

Topic: Service of Ordination and Induction of Douglas R Creighton

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82556917941?pwd=QTRWeWFFMThhc3dZR2xkRUh6MlhmUT09>

Meeting ID: 825 5691 7941

Passcode: 161020

To access by telephone:

Dial [0131 460 1196](tel:01314601196)

For Meeting ID, dial 825 5691 7941 followed by #

For Participant ID, just type #

For Passcode, type 161020 followed by #

East Neuk Trinity

Sunday 25th October in Kilconquhar Church

Instead of gifts of food and flowers you are invited to make a monetary donation to the Anstruther Food Bank.

There will be a collection box at the door of the church if you wish to make a donation.

Church Giving

Thank you very much for continuing to support the church over the past months by giving through bank transfer or by sending your WFO envelopes to the Treasurer either directly to her home or to the Church Office. The account details for Bank Transfer are:

East Neuk Trinity Bank Details.

Sort Code- 83-24-24

Account Number 00634002

As we begin to open our church buildings and return to worshipping together the Treasurer would prefer if you would continue to give to the church in this way. Banks are making increased charges for handling cash.

If you would like any more information please contact the Treasurer Mrs Victoria White. toriwhite@btinternet.com

Craignish, 41 Viewforth Place, KY10 2PZ. Pittenweem

Televised and Radio Services from Church of Scotland.

BBC 1 at 10am Sunday Morning Live. This week Sean Fletcher and Sally Phillips take a look at the week's talking points and explore the ethical and religious issues of the day.

BBC 1 at 1.15pm Songs of Praise. This week Claire McCollum visits the Clink restaurant in Styal, partly run by prison inmates who are being given the chance of a fresh start in life by being trained in a fine dining restaurant.

For radio listeners, there is a regular religious service on **BBC Radio 4 between 9.45 and 10.00 am Mondays to Fridays** with hymns, prayers and reflections. You have to have digital radio (DAB) or turn to the Long Wave, if you have a smart speaker just ask it to play BBC Radio 4.

Radio Scotland will continue to feature Thought for the Day within the Good Morning Scotland news programme each weekday. Every New Sunday has moved forward an hour to a new slot of 7.30AM and Sunday Morning with Cathy Macdonald will continue to feature conversations with guests from across all faith groups.

Rev Rosemary Frew at Bowden and Melrose Church will be posting short Reflections on their Church Website. Please click on the link below to listen to these:

<http://bowdenandmelroseparish.org/covid.html>

Across the BBC, our network services will include live worship and virtual church services as well as special new content on the BBC's flagship religious strands on TV and radio, as well as providing content to mark the major festivals of worship. There's much more detail to be found on the BBC website, at

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2020/easter> and at
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2020/religion-coronavirus>

Don't forget to light a candle and place it in your window on Sunday Evening at 7pm to call upon God that his light might shine into our darkness. Attached with this email is the Prayer from Rev Hugh Wallace for this week.

Bible Readings for Sunday 11th October to Saturday 17th October 2020

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW (3)

3 The greatest commandment

Sunday 11 October Matthew 22:1-14

Monday 12 October Matthew 22:15-22, 34-40

Tuesday 13 October Read Matthew 23:1-12

Wednesday 14 October Matthew 24:1-14

Thursday 15 October Matthew 24:33-44

Friday 16 October Matthew 25:1-13

Saturday 17 October Matthew 25:31-46

This list is from The IBRA publication *'Fresh from the Word*

EAST NEUK FOOD BANK

Appleton's of Elie continue to be a collection point for the foodbank There will be a box outside Appleton's Hardware shop during opening times. The donations will be delivered to the Foodbank every Thursday.

The Diving Gannet in St Monans is a collection point as well.

If you prefer to make a cash donation then this can be done by bank transfer. Details for Bank Transfer are: Account Name: East Neuk Foodbank. Sort Code 83-15-21 Account Number 00227490. Please consider a donation if you are able.

Mobile Post Office

The mobile PO is now calling in Colinsburgh on a Friday 9.30 - 10.30. Opposite the corner shop. It will still continue to call at Elie on Mondays 12.30 - 1.30 and Wednesdays 12.40 - 1.40.

Please do send me anything you would like to share with everyone. It may be a poem, a Bible Reading, a favourite hymn or a fun quiz.

Please send these to: Eastneuktrinityoffice@btconnect.com

Keep safe everyone
Helen - Church Secretary

IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS

REV GAVIN BOSWELL, INTERIM MODERATOR GBoswell@churchofscotland.org.uk

OLIVE WEIR, SESSION CLERK, jamandlor1@gmail.com

Our place in God's Plan - Elspeth Smith

This summer there have been many weddings which have not gone to plan. Jesus' story [Matthew 22: 1 - 3, 8 - 14] shows that it happened 2000 years ago - nothing is new. Plans don't always work out as we hope they will.

Isaiah [Isaiah 25: 1, 6 - 9] praises God for all the wonderful things he has done, things he planned long ago. He also praises him for the plans he has for the future, for what are sometimes called the end-times, when all will be well for everyone. We are told, and reminded, in many of the prophecies that God always has a plan and we all have a place in that plan. But even God's plans sometimes have to be changed.

When I am sewing a cross-stitch or tapestry I can see the whole plan and I know what I should be doing. But sometimes I make a mistake - I get the counting wrong or I use the wrong thread. I have two options, both in the future - I can take it all back again or I can adapt the pattern to cover up my mistake. What I can't do is turn the clock back and start again. God sees the whole of his plan - he sees the whole of time, past, present and future.

Because of that he is able to warn the people of things that have not yet happened and to show them what will happen if they continue to ignore his guidance. He can forewarn us so we don't make the mistakes in the first place. But if his people go on making mistakes what then? Our God is a gracious God, slow to anger and full of grace.

He is constantly creative, constantly making all things new. Later in Isaiah we are assured of that. In Ch 43 and 65 we find God saying 'forget the former things; don't dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing.' In Revelation, in John's vision for the future, he is reminded of this when *the one seated on the throne* says 'Behold I am making all things new. Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.' So, in God's great mercy, we are assured that, in the end-times, all will be well for everyone who trusts in him and for all creation.

We all have a part to play in God's plan and our parts are all absolutely unique to us. [*Song in CH4 145 - God made me as I am Bernadette Farrell*] If we fail or if we make mistakes we know in faith that we can turn to God and admit what has happened and that he will find a way to make things right. It may not be the way we expect or hope but it will be his way and it will fit in with his plan. As Moses led the Children of Israel out of Egypt and towards the promised land, they made mistake after mistake, they rebelled time after time. Even when Moses was still on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments they turned away and had Aaron build the golden calf. God gave them a second chance, and then a third chance and more and he will do the same for us if we have faith and trust in him.

But Jesus' parable of the wedding plans that went wrong has a stark message for us. The king adapted his plans to include others who weren't expecting to be invited. It may seem a bit harsh to us that the man with no wedding clothes was thrown out. But the host of a wedding always provided clothes for the guests. No-one had feel they could not come. This man deliberately chose to insult his host. God provides everything we need. If we choose to turn our backs on his providing we should not be surprised if we are turned out in the darkness.

When I am looking for things in my sewing box I come across a magazine cutting which I must have put there well over 50 years ago, at the start of the year I went up to St Andrews as a student. It says:

If by any chance you are going into 1964 with misgivings and fears, I suggest you read and read again some of the challenging and encouraging words in the first chapter of the book of Joshua:-

“As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee. I will not fail thee nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage. Be neither afraid neither be thou dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”

I don't remember putting it there, but I must have needed it at the time. I do know that, for me, now, the knowledge of God's presence in all I do is both daunting and reassuring.

If I reach a point in my life where I feel I am standing at a crossroads and don't know which way to go, where I need to know that there is a way ahead even if I cannot see it, or if the way looks impossible from where I stand, I hope and pray that my faith will be strong enough to trust in him and put my misgivings and fears behind me.

The psalmist wrote: *The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.* We all have a part to play in God's plan. Trust in him, ask for his guidance and he will breathe new life into us, so that we can do his will and not let him down. Amen