

WEEKLY CONGREGATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Thought For The Week
Sunday 13th September



A

Prayer

God, who brought heaven close to earth,
You journey with us
as we seek to follow Jesus.
May Your generous Spirit
open our hearts to receive love,
open our mouths to speak compassionately,
open our eyes to see Your signs and wonders,
and open our hands to share peace with friend and stranger.

AMEN

East Neuk Trinity

Sunday morning services will resume from

6th September at 11am.

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.

Very happy Elders.

The photo below is from the Zoom meeting last Saturday to witness the count of the vote. As you can see the Elders from East Neuk Trinity and St Monans along with Douglas are very happy with the result.



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 over the next couple of weeks.

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

Quiz Night via Zoom

Wednesday 16th September at 7.30.

Invitation open to everyone.

Contact Olive Weir jamandlor1@gmail.com

East Neuk Trinity, St Monans, and Coastline Community Churches are working together to offer an on-line Alpha Course, on Thursday evenings, starting on **17 September**. The course will offer people the opportunity to explore the big questions of life, faith, and meaning, joining Zoom meetings from the comfort of their own homes. If you would be interested in attending or you know of someone who may be interested, further details of what the course is all about, and how to register interest, is available on the ENT website (www.eastneuktrinity.org.uk) or you can also find us on the Alpha website (www.alpha.org/tryalphaonline).

Evening Bible Study Group is moving online!!

This group has decided to meet virtually to consider a Lifebuilder Study, looking at The Fruits of the Spirit . The meetings will be monthly, on the last Thursday of each month at 7.30. Our chats are informal with a free flowing discussion based on a passage from Scripture, but with no pressure to share or contribute. The first of the series will be on Love on 24 September. Please do consider joining us for BibleChat, either virtually or by phone link. Contact Eleanor 330512.

Televised and Radio Services from Church of Scotland.

BBC 1 at 1.15pm Songs of Praise. This week Aled Jones is in Plymouth, where 400 years ago a group of Christians embarked on an epic journey across the Atlantic which changed history - The voyage of the Mayflower.

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 6th September to 12th September 2020

FAKE NEWS AND THE GOOD NEWS

1 Fake news

Sunday 13 September	Deuteronomy 18:18-22
Monday 14 September	1 Kings 13:11-24
Tuesday 15 September	1 Kings 22:4-28, 34-35
Wednesday 16 September	Jeremiah 23:16-32
Thursday 17 September	Jeremiah 28
Friday 18 September	Micah 3:5-12
Saturday 19 September	Acts 13:1-12

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 (8am-1pm). The donations will be delivered to the Foodbank every Thursday.

The Diving Gannet in St Monans has reopened for take away only and 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, a quiz even recipes to keep us busy in the weeks ahead.

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

Guild Service Sunday 13th September 2020

Guild Theme: Going the Second Mile Matt 5:41

Gavin produced last week's sermon on this subject, and the Moderator of the General Assembly has commented on it at the recent Guild virtual gathering. We have already read of the example of the Good Samaritan. So what more is there to say?

The Gospel Text tells us that when Jesus spoke of going the second mile, He was referring to the way we should respond to those who ill treat us. There was plenty of that around in Jesus' day, especially from the Roman occupying forces. The Romans used their authority at their own whim and to their advantage. So, they could brutally seize someone and ask them to carry their heavy kit for long distances; we know they seized Simon of Cyrene and forced him to carry Jesus' cross. What Jesus was saying was that if anyone was treated in this way, they could show that they cared even for their enemies by going that bit farther. The soldier might be made to think that there was something special about the person who did this act of kindness. In the same passage, Jesus instructs his hearers to be prepared to give away their cloak as well as their tunic, if they were forced, and to turn the other cheek to violence, rather than retaliating. He sums it up in Luke's Gospel by instructing us to love our enemies, and to do good to those who hurt us.

When Paul was in prison in Philippi and there was an earthquake, he reassured the terrified jailer that all was well, and no one had escaped. Paul went on to explain how he too could be saved and know God's forgiveness. We know that at the **Last Supper** Jesus washed the feet of Judas and included him in the meal, even though He knew that Judas was in the very process of betraying Him.

There are countless examples of **persecuted Christian** who have won over their persecutors by acts of kindness and forgiveness. We can think too of a modern example of kindness: in the midst of the riots following the killing of George Floyd in the US, a local church decided to wash the feet of the protestors and two officers of the local police force knelt and took part in the act.

So, we can ask ourselves **how we responded** the last time someone did us a bad turn. Did we respond with harsh words, vow to sever any further contact with the person, or did we pause to ask ourselves why the person had acted in such an unpleasant way? Could we be of any help to that person if they were struggling with some personal problem we might not know about?

I wonder if we asked ourselves recently if we **bear a grudge** against anyone that we think has done us wrong in the past? Perhaps it was a month ago or a year ago, or five years or 20 years? Churches have been seriously damaged by smouldering grudges which hurt fellowship and spill out into the community where they destroy outreach. So perhaps now is a good time for us to put any grudges behind us and make sure we are not welcoming our new minister into a church where smouldering grievances exist. We may have to go that second mile to put things right with someone else, but if this brings healing and restored relationships it is well worthwhile; it's exactly what Jesus wants and expects of His people. Remember how Paul writing to the Philippians pleads with Euodia and pleads with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. Think how such agreement would restore their relationship, strengthen the fellowship of the church and help the witness of the church and its members to the outside needy world.

But maybe we are not nursing hurts or grievances at present, and that's great, but we should reflect on the words of the Moderator to the virtual National Gathering of the Guild on this very subject. He spoke about reciprocal favours, "you do this for me, and I'll do this for you" attitude - quid pro quo or "I'll scratch your back, if you'll scratch mine". That is the way of the world, he said, and we know that's how things work in the world. But Jesus' way is different. His way is to be generous and forgiving; to do that extra something when there's no obligation or favour to repay; to do it even for someone who may not deserve it.

Can we think of **examples of people who have treated us so generously**? We can think of many in our own lives. One example from the past stands out for me:-

Some years ago, we were held up when returning from the US, and found we had missed our ongoing flight. A young Hispanic gentleman, was the clerk at the departure gate and he advised us that we might just catch a flight from another Terminal if we went quickly. We just made it in time, but to our horror found that our passports, flight documents and cash had been left behind at the first desk; so that flight too was missed. There was no alternative but to take the bus back to the first Terminal and hope that someone had found our documents. Just as we started to walk, the young clerk appeared and waved to us. He had all our documents in his hand and gave them to us with a broad smile. He seemed like a guardian angel and had gone the second mile for a couple of careless foreigners. We were very grateful. He had no need to help us, yet he did and we were blessed as a result. We could go on with other examples of peoples' kindness to us personally.

I don't want to cause embarrassment, but I feel I must mention someone who has worked so hard during these recent weeks. She has put in a huge number of extra hours and has been delivering copies of the weekly email to those who are not online. How many extra miles has she literally gone, for our benefit, for the church, and for the Lord in all her work - and no complaining! What an example Helen has been to us all.

What can we do with **our resources** and at the age of many of us? Yes, we can give to the foodbank or Christian Aid and we can pray for the missions and ministries we know about. But are there other ways to help? What about the lonely? If people could share with each other, loneliness could certainly be eased. We can all help in this. So, we can pay that visit, if, when and how that is possible in these days.

Phone calls are becoming increasingly rare, as so many people find it easier to communicate by email or text. Why is this? Possibly because you communicate but don't need to get involved - do the business but avoid engaging with the other person. But so many lonely folk just want to speak to someone else; even many young people who spend a lot of time online, would be much better chatting in person with each other. Disturbed adolescents benefit from regular personal contact and speaking with someone they can trust; someone who is prepared to spend time in person or on the phone. Phone calls can take time. A close friend lost his wife a year ago. I phone from time to time. I know that each call will take an hour, but afterwards I always feel it has been worthwhile.

We heard about **Barnabbas** from Rev Gavin Boswell a few weeks ago - the "son of encouragement". Is the Lord calling us to be encouragers in these difficult days? Why not ask "Who can we encourage today?" - with a visit, a phone call, an email or a letter or postcard. And if we think of doing it, let's go ahead and do it.

Paul writing to the Philippians asks them not to act in their own interests, but in the interests of others Phil 2:4. Can we do it? Can we rise above ourselves for the benefit of others? In our own strength we will fail. But Paul tells us to "work out our salvation" (Philippians 2: 12,13). He means that we must express our faith in our actions for the blessing and benefit of others. He says we must do it too "with fear and trembling" so Paul's not suggesting it's an easy matter. But then Paul adds, "for it is God who is working in you". We go that second mile not alone, but with the Lord's presence and His power working in us; Paul also writes in 2 Corinthians that Christ's love compels us or drives us on.

There was a boy I knew when I was young who grew up across the street from me. No one ever noted that he was very special or clever or talented, but later God used him to set up the Bethany Trust which has brought so much help to homeless, deprived and addicted people down through the years. He may not have seemed very special but He was obedient to God's call to serve and has blessed thousands of people as result of going that second mile for them.

So, we, in going the second mile, are obeying Lord's instruction; the needs and opportunities are many and varied; for a lot of us they will be just small things, but the Lord can show us where we can be best used. We are not alone, and we have His great resources and presence to enable us. Let us all as a church, as Guild members and as individuals go that second mile and know that the Lord is with us each step of the way.