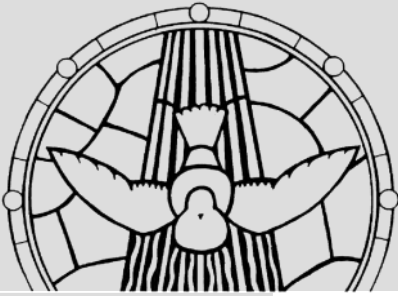


Newport-on-Tay

Church of Scotland Journal

June 2021



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

John 14:15-21

'I will not leave you as Orphans'



There are seasons in life when the transitions, changes and tragedies can leave us feeling as orphans. In such moments, we begin asking questions such as: what will I do now? Where do I go from here? What happens next? Who will nurture, guide, and strengthen me? Those are the questions orphans or people struggling with any kind of loss ask themselves and others. And those are the questions the disciples of Jesus were pondering about when he told them he was leaving.

Most of us have been asking questions about the continuous changes that we have to endure concerning Covid-19 restrictions. At every stage of

lockdown restrictions, we anticipate what the big news would be and how it will affect our lives and worship as a community of God's people. On Tuesday June 1st the First Minister of Scotland - Nicola Sturgeon - stated that much of the north and south of Scotland will move into Level 1 restrictions, in line with the timetabled easing of restrictions. This new development means that some of our churches will now be able to sing in church, even if that will unfortunately happen behind face masks. So, we are still wondering when we shall be able to sing freely in church without masks and then have our teas and coffees after the service for reasons of interacting a bit more! However, there are other significant questions that jeer at us in the modern world.

Recently, I read an article, published in October 2017, by Future Learn. The title is, 4 Big Questions the world faces Today (and Courses to Help You understand them). The questions include: a) Are we better together? b) Have we made life harder for the next generation? c) How can we slow down man-made climate change? d) What is the reality of immigration?

Those questions capture the relationship between isolationism and working together; between our daily activities and their impact on climate change; and between foreigners in our communities and the indigenes themselves. Summarily, the questions are about the ways we treat each other and the consequences of our actions on others and on climate change. And what kind of help we need for a better world.

When Jesus said he was not going to leave his disciples as orphans, but would return to them, he made a significant request that was intended to help his disciples develop relationships that would guarantee the welfare of society: 'if you love me, keep my commands...' (John 14:15). Love for Jesus leads his followers to obey his commandments and teachings and most importantly the command to love. If we love someone, we don't have difficulty doing the things we know they want. In the context of the world's problems, the command to love one another must be about our attitudes to nature and being one another's keeper as we care, especially for those who are unlike us! This is perfectly illustrated in Jesus' Parable of the Sheep and the Goats: 'For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick, and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me' (Matthew 25:35-36, 40).

As post-Pentecost people, we believe that we are better together, and our world is much better if we care for the earth and care for the needs of others. We are grateful to God that He has sustained us at Newport-on-Tay Church through these trying Covid-19 pandemic days and we are determined to continue with our Christian witness in the church and in the community. Manna remains one of our church's outreach centres in town and we are happy to answer any questions concerning joining us in worship or any other form of assistance. Beginning this week, we shall be able to allow more people into the church house and be able to sing to God's glory. Please feel free to join us in our fellowship following the guidelines provided in this Journal and on our church website.

Although we cannot see the Holy Spirit, let us be able to sense His work in our lives and trust that he is changing us into the image of Christ.

Every Blessing

Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

This journal has been produced and delivered in accordance with the strict Church of Scotland published guidance on the distribution of church-related material

Update on Church Services

Therefore, I will give thanks to You among the nations, O Lord, And I will sing praises to Your name. (Psalm 18:49)

Whilst we have for some time been able to conduct worship within our church building, sadly we have not been permitted to give thanks as proposed by the Psalmist by singing praises to our God.

How wholly unfamiliar and personally unsatisfying this experience has been! Whilst arguably we have had the opportunity to concentrate and reflect on the underlying meaning of the projected lyrics – Hannah's accomplished melodies on the organ have incited a more vociferous response, with muted murmurings gradually increasing in volume from the congregation over the past few weeks!

Thankfully, as lockdown eases and restrictions are gradually lifted, the Scottish Government has moved Fife to COVID protection level 1 where we can (w.e.f. 00:01hrs on Saturday 5th June 2021) once again sing in church, albeit 2m physically distanced and with our face coverings and other mitigating measures firmly in place.

The 6th of June also marks the end of our 6-week 'Concurrent Service Trial', during which the church-based and online services have partially merged in terms of content, effectively proving the live capture and real-time broadcasting via Zoom. The trial will be discussed and evaluated at the June meeting of the Kirk Session and a future strategy agreed and launched.

On behalf of the Session and the Digital Strategy Team, I would like to thank you for both your patience and understanding throughout the duration of the trial.

For those who are interested in the main decisions, debates and speeches from last week's General Assembly of the Church of Scotland - a summarised account created by 'Life and Work' is available to view on the following link: <https://www.lifeandwork.org/resources/general-assembly-2021-special-supplement>

Francis B. Robertson
Session Clerk

MANNA matters

We are delighted to be open again. We are busier with each passing week. Soup and sandwiches have been very much in demand along with our usual home baking. The gifts and cards have been selling well for the time of year too. We try to keep customers up to date with what they can and can't do while visiting us. The big thing that remains is social distancing. When you are seated at the table with a different household you must keep one metre apart. This applies outside too for hospitality settings at the moment. Everyone is doing their best to keep each other safe and our customers understand that.



On a separate note some of you will be aware that Morag's husband Neil was in hospital recently. He is now home and making excellent progress. He has even been down to manna a few times with the family for coffee. We wish him well with his recovery.

Thank you for all your continued support and prayers.

Diane & the manna team

MANNA is open Tuesday – Saturday 10am-4pm

manna (01382) 542781

Diane Miller (01382) 541141 & dianemillermanna@gmail.com
Morag Rowley (01382) 541157 & moragrowley.4@gmail.com

Church Services during June

The format of our services (whether in church or on Zoom or both) will be decided at our Kirk Session meeting on Tuesday 8th June. For details of the services in June, please check our website (www.notchurch.co.uk) or the noticeboard outside the church in Cupar Road.

Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week

Many thanks to everyone who has responded to the church envelope appeal for the Week. To date I am holding £470 which I will shortly forward to Christian Aid.

I am always touched and uplifted by the support given. Thank you.



Margaret Imlay

Sunday Club Update



Sunday Club

The Sunday Club has continued to meet via Zoom for half an hour each Sunday before morning worship. (This allows anyone taking part to join the main service). We shared together Bible stories about Jesus and his followers, with the children reading to each other, acting as reporters on the scene, and as quizmasters. We have had 5-8 children attending.

As restrictions start to ease we plan to be meeting face to face again. We will ease in with some outdoor Sunday activities before starting back in the new school year. This is the time of year we would normally hold our Sunday Club prize-giving service and the congregational picnic however, sadly, these have been cancelled again this year. Instead, the children will be receiving a gift and the children due to move up to Youth Seekers will receive their 'grown-up' bible translations.

If you know of anyone who would like to join the Sunday Club or if you would like to volunteer as a helper, please let me know and I can arrange for you to complete the appropriate forms etc.

Neil Merrylees, Sunday Club Coordinator

Try Praying Initiative

This is the tenth year of this outreach to people who don't "do" church by the small Trypraying team based in Edinburgh. I would encourage you strongly to look at their website: www.trypraying.org where you can find out more.

I would encourage you to take a leaflet and take some time over a week to look at it. Then ask God for you to be given the opportunity to "lose it" in a gesture of love and compassion towards someone who does not know God but who needs him. We are continuing to make the booklets free for the taking from outside the church.

trypraying

For more information please visit our church website www.notchurch.co.uk/index.php/news/
Thank you, **Alison Heywood**

Messy Church

Messy Church is a form of Church for children and adults that involves Creativity, Celebration and Hospitality. It meets at a time and a place that is suitable to those who may not belong to any Church. It involves Welcome, Activity Time, Celebration or Worship and a Meal, and would usually meet once a month.



I am still looking for a core team of 3-4 people, who have a heart and a passion for children and families, to help set up Messy Church in Newport-on-Tay. If you are interested, please get in touch by email with the heading 'Messy Church Core Team'.

For more details please visit the church website www.notchurch.co.uk/index.php/news/

Blessings

Chris Cameron

youthworker.notcos@outlook.com

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Next Edition

Our next Journal will be the Summer edition covering July & August.
If you would like anything included in that edition
please email newportcos@btinternet.com by Sunday 20th June 2021.

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