

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Sunday 29th March 2020

grantonchurch.org.uk

Granton



The Church of Scotland

“How clearly the sky reveals God’s glory!” Psalm 19

Update from the Team

Last week seems like a whole different world to the one we find ourselves in now. Whilst the last 7 days may not have changed the entire world they certainly have changed our country. Anyone coming to the UK today would struggle to recognise it as the same place.

Prior to the announcements from both Prime Minister and First Minister on Monday evening we had received updated advice from the Legal Department of the Church of Scotland instructing all churches to cease the use of halls. The only exception was if you were offering childcare for key workers or were a local authority recognised foodbank. Neither of which applies to us. This is the point at which Share ‘n’ Wear was asked to move online for the duration of the crisis.

Anna will be posting regular updates, ideas, etc on things you can do throughout the crisis to keep helping the environment. Don’t forget you can send your ideas to her as well!

It was clear after the official Governmental announcement that we would no longer be able to open the church for prayer so sadly we are letting you know that as of now the church buildings are completely closed for any and all use. As soon as the situation changes we will let you all know.

Sarah Smith started with us on Monday and is already putting her skills to good use. She is creating an online programme for small groups that will be open to everyone shortly. There will also be a chance to meet (virtually) her soon. PTO



For more information about anything in the Bulletin, snap the QR code or visit grantonchurch.org.uk

Call to Action - this week's checklist

	Get Connected by downloading Zoom and letting people know you want to stay connected through it.
	Remember to PHONE and speak to people you may not see face to face. They will really appreciate it and you will feel better to. Volunteer for the phone tree.
	Pray for people in the congregation and community. Pray this week especially for Sarah who started with us on Monday.
	Remember our medical professionals. Pray that God keeps them safe and give thanks for their willingness to put themselves in danger for us.
	Take steps to engage your faith through study and reflection.

Update from the Team Cont.

More from Sarah here in her own words.

My name is Sarah Smith. I was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. I have five siblings, from 3 different marriages, and different religious backgrounds. My all-time favourite movie is The Sound of Music, and I absolutely love Julie Andrews, who I once saw in London Heathrow Airport. I served a congregation in Northern Ireland for two years, and while there I heard a call to the Church of Scotland. I applied and interviewed for this familiarisation program, and was accepted. I am excited to be paired with Granton Parish Church.



I am here to continue growing in my ministry. I feel called to be a minister in the Church of Scotland, and I am grateful to have this time to explore this calling, and serve alongside the ministry team. I look forward to learning more about ministry in the Church of Scotland and at Granton Parish Church. While I am at Granton, I look forward to being challenged, growing, and continuing to grow in my ministry experience.

Another update will follow next week!

keeping
in
touch In times like this it is hugely important we keep in touch with each other. We are creating a phone tree where people commit to regularly phoning and checking in with a particular group of people. This way we can make sure everyone is safe and keep everyone connected.

Has the church got your contact details? Email/phone Norman or Chas who will record them in the church roll.

In Brief - more on the website

more details at grantonchurch.org.uk - mobile friendly - snap the QR code



Keeping The Faith

Sing a new song to the LORD! Sing to the LORD, all the world! Sing to the LORD, and praise him! Proclaim every day the good news that he has saved us. Proclaim his glory to the nations, his mighty deeds to all peoples. The LORD is great and is to be highly praised; he is to be honoured more than all the gods. Psalm 96:1-4

God has created the most wonderful world for us to live in. With society slowing down pollution has lessened and wildlife has been seen in places not seen in years. People in Venice were amazed to see fish back in their canals last week. It might seem like we have slowed down and life has stopped but around us nature continues the transition from winter into spring. See the snowdrops in the ground, the buds on the trees and hear the birds sing?

Whilst mostly confined in our homes its easy to miss all this. Yet part of the challenge of faith is seeing God's continued gifts around us. Do we spend all our time complaining and mourning what we have temporarily lost or can we still find beauty in the world, joy in those we are connected to?

Take a moment every day to be thankful for what we do have and praise God because he is with us.

- Look up and read the whole of Psalm 96 a couple of times out loud
- Stand at your window and look out. Read the Psalm as you look outside. If you are going for your walk, marvel at the beauty around you.
- Remember that God loves you, he gave you this amazing world to live in.

What's On

Thought for the Day is being expanded so you now get more thought per day! It also comes with free prayer and a free suggested activity! Don't miss out, sign up at the Website. After Easter we will be exclusively following the Gospel of Matthew for the next few months.

Zoom Groups are being set up over the next 2 weeks and Sarah is preparing resources for them to use. These are designed to give you the resources to both keep your faith going and grow. Our faith has not stopped just because we can't physically meet!

Meet Sarah, Have you met Sarah yet? She will be hosting a Zoom hangout where anyone can join in to say hello.

Chat Hangouts will be hosted by different members of the Ministry Team at different points of the week. These are opportunities to keep connected. Bring your own Tea and Coffee. ;)

Short **video messages** are being prepared and released each Sunday and we hope to eventually move to doing 2-3 or these a week.

Any other ideas of things we could do? Email them in.

Detailed timetables for each of these will appear on the website and in next weeks bulletin. Please bear with us as we get up to speed with a new way of working.

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