

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Sunday 18th October 2020

grantonchurch.org.uk

Granton



The Church of Scotland

Join this Sunday's service at 10.30am

By computer/smartphone - go to grantonchurch.org.uk and follow the link.

By telephone - just follow these steps:

- Phone 0131 460 1196
- Then enter the meeting ID : 886 7104 2523
- Then enter #
- Then enter the meeting password : 905841
- Then enter #

You will now be able to hear the service and you will also be able to speak to everyone as well if you wish.



Catch up on Sunday Services

If you are not able to catch the service on Sunday mornings yet still want to catch the service later, we broadcast the services on Facebook Live. Check out the church website or go straight to our Facebook page.

People have been asking how they can support the ongoing work of the congregation. Go to the website and look at the top of the page where you will see a Donation button. Click it, then either donate via card or click on the Paypal button. Your donation will help our church to keep making a positive impact on our community and beyond.

DONATE

Opening The Church For Prayer

Between 11am and 12noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays the church is open for prayer. There is soft music with inspirational images on the screen alongside a chance to sit and quietly draw near to God.

Our doors will be open between 11am and 12noon until further notice.

#praysafe



For more
info about
anything in the
Bulletin, snap the
QR
code or visit

Thoughts for The Day (Weekly Digest)

Monday Oct 12: Anne Macintosh

who lived in the 4th century

Matthew 13:31-32

Steer the ship of my life, good Lord,

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

to your quiet harbour,

Jesus told them another parable: "The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man takes a mustard seed and sows it in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it grows up, it is the biggest of all plants. It becomes a tree, so that birds come and make their nests in its branches."

where I can be safe from the storms of sin and conflict.

Show me the course I should take.

Jesus is talking about the black mustard plant that grows in Middle East. The seed is extremely small (about a millimetre in diameter), but it can grow to about three to four metres tall.

Renew in me the gift of discernment,

so that I can always see the right direction in which I should go.

In this parable, Jesus teaches that although the Kingdom of God started small, with Jesus and the disciples, it would grow and spread across the world to unlimited numbers of followers. He wanted people to know that the mustard seed represented the humble beginnings of the church, starting very small but growing to reach millions throughout the world and that he was the planter. This type of mustard plant may not be familiar to us but we all know the quotation "Mighty oaks from little acorns grow" – where great things can come from small beginnings. It is comforting to know that God is at the helm of our faith and we are part of the world-wide church.

And give me the strength and the courage to choose the right course,

even when the sea is rough and the waves are high,

knowing that through enduring hardship and danger,

in your name, we shall find comfort and peace.

Action

What small action could we do today that could potentially reap huge benefits for our world?

Tuesday Oct 13: Sarah Smith

He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."

Prayer of guidance by St Basil of Caesarea

Matthew 13 : 33

(Continued from page 2)

During lockdown, people took up different things. Many people seemed to take up baking. Baking bread seemed to be a very popular thing to do. When baking bread, you need yeast to help the bread to grow and to create those beautiful air bubbles. Yeast helps the bread to rise. Without the yeast, the bread would be flat.

The key with yeast is that in order for it to work, it needs to be activated, and part of that is letting it work and grow before putting it in the bread. For sourdough bread, you have to keep feeding the yeast before it is ready to go into the dough.

Our faith is like yeast for bread. We need to feed our faith. If we let our faith go dormant, then it doesn't have as good of a chance to grow. Faith is something that grows over our whole lives. There is never a time that you are not doing things to help it grow.

Prayer: Loving God, you have taught us how to grow our faith. You have shown us how to nurture our faith so that it can grow and strengthen. Help us to continue to strengthen and grow our faith as we seek to serve you. Amen.

Action: Do something to help nurture your faith.

Wednesday Oct 14: Mary Macleod Rivett

Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:

"I will open my mouth in parables,

I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world."

Matthew 13 : 34 – 35

This short passage is an explanation of why Jesus spoke in parables or stories, and Matthew takes care to tie the answer back to the prophecies of the Old Testament. He points out that Jesus is following a practice that was foreseen for him, a technique that was common as a way of illustrating and communicating subtle truths about the nature of God and God's plan for the world. We're still discussing and benefiting from those stories, 2000 years on – they're vivid, human and memorable, and they tell us a lot about how everyday life can help us understand what God is like. Parables and stories, from the Bible and our own lives, allow us to illustrate and understand God's work in our lives.

Prayer: Lord, we praise and thank you for the parables and Bible stories that have taught us so much about you. Shine your light of understanding on them for us, so that they help us understand how you're working in our time and in our lives. Amen

Action: Think about a story from your own life that helped you to understand or learn something about God, and maybe tell it to someone.

(Continued on page 4)

Thursday Oct 15: David Moodie

Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

Matthew 13 : 36 – 39

This is the second time we see Jesus tell the crowds a parable and then later explain what he meant to his disciples. And you can start to see why Jesus preferred to speak in Parables. He was trying to teach about complex and controversial topics: Good and Evil, the end of the world, Divine judgement. These aren't easy things to engage people in. So instead he told stories, accessible to even an uneducated peasant as his original audiences largely were, that allowed ordinary people to engage with these difficult topics.

We all of us rely on stories to understand the world. They simplify complex issues and help us to understand our place in the bigger picture. But sometimes we need to be like the disciples and start to look into those stories in more detail. Sometimes that means trading an easy to grasp story for a much more difficult reality, but when we do we can start to understand the world more deeply and

with greater clarity.

Prayer: Lord of all, thank you for the stories that have guided me through life, that taught me right from wrong, that helped me find my place in the world and that grew my faith. But I pray you give me the wisdom and insight to look closely at those stories and to understand the truths that lie beneath them.

Action: Try and remember a story that has meant a lot to you, maybe from when you were young or a more recent one. What did that story teach you, and what lessons might lie beneath the surface?

Friday Oct 16: Sarah Smith

"As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Matthew 13 : 40 – 43

Have you ever cleared out an area that has been overcome with so much stuff that you couldn't see the floor? You would walk through and constantly be tripping on things and stepping on things because there were too many things there that were no longer serving any purpose. Once you clear that space out and can see the floor again, it just feels good, and you now have what you need. What you didn't need has been cleared

out of the way.

It might seem that right now we are being covered in weeds, and tripping and falling at every corner. We are so desperately wanting a path to be cleared. The important thing to remember is that the clearing doesn't happen when we want it to, but it will happen. What we can do is continue to make our way through the weeds the best we can, and when we trip, get back up and keep going.

Prayer: Loving God, we give you thanks for this amazing promise that you will come and clear a way so that we can better follow you. You will clear things out so that we can shine your love to the ends of this world. Help us to not give up hope when all we see around us is hopelessness. Keep us going and give us strength. Amen.

Action: Give yourself grace when you trip. Remind yourself that you do not journey alone.

Saturday Oct 17: Stuart Mitchell

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Matthew 13 : 44 – 46

My Nana often used the expression "There are no pockets in a shroud". It popped in to my mind as I was reading

these parables. Jesus is essentially saying that earthly riches, no matter what form they may take, pale in to insignificance with the promised riches, rewards, treasures and wonders that await those who seek, find and keep God at the forefront of their life. Knock and the door shall be opened, seek and you will find ask and it will be given. Those who pursue their search with sincerity show by their actions that God is with them. The earthly peace they find is in their searching and at the end of their days on earth will be rewarded in the finding of everlasting peace. True and priceless treasure indeed.

Prayer

Loving God, Thank you for everything you have blessed me with. Your generosity knows no bounds. May I continue to be guided by you and follow faithfully the teachings of your son that keep me on the path to your Kingdom and all it promises. Amen

Action

Thank God for all that you are blessed with and take time to reflect on the fact that the promises, rewards and wonders of the life to come are greater than anything we have in this life Be truly thankful that these will be given freely to all who continue their journey in faith

Sunday Oct 18: Norman Smith

"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the

good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 13 : 47 – 50

This parable evokes some very challenging imagery for us. Angels acting as sifters who separate the good from the bad. Since we are brought up on a Disney view of the world that everyone should live happily ever after, this is really difficult for us. Yet it is a theme that Jesus returns to time and time again. We are eternal beings. We have a life beyond this one and our actions and beliefs in this world have an impact on the world to come. Quite scary is it not?

It reminds us of the question the rich young ruler asked Jesus. What must I do to inherit eternal life? He was told to sell his possessions and follow Jesus. Do you think it was harder for him to get rid of his wealth or to spend his life following Jesus? We don't know. For each of us, the challenge is not to let anything come between us and Jesus.

Prayer: Heavenly God, you know my life better than anyone. You know my thoughts as well as my deeds. You know my hopes and my fears. I pray that nothing may come between us. If anything is a block, give me the wisdom to recognise that and the strength to deal with it.

Action: Examine what might be a block between you and Jesus connecting today.

You may have noticed this is a different kind of bulletin. Rather than people get different bit of paper each week we have decided to put them all into one. This makes your new bulletin a one stop shop for what's happening in your church as well as catching up with the daily thoughts. All your church info in one place!

We have designed this as a resource to help keep/grow your faith as well as letting you know what is happening.

Don't be afraid to share this with your friends.

Faith is not meant to be kept to ourselves!

Every year in Edinburgh St Andrew's & St George's West church on George St hosts a sale to raise funds for Christian Aid. This year it will take place from **22 – 24 October 24, Thursday & Friday 10am–5pm, Saturday 10am–3pm.**



The Sale offers an unexpected opportunity this year for visitors to acquire their own piece of cultural history as they browse in our historic church. Many Scottish artists are represented, including famous names from the past and the present. And because the sale is focused on raising funds for Christian Aid, the prices are affordable.



The Marble Challenge

There is a jar in the church that ever time you invite someone else to church you put a marble in the jar. Before lockdown there was a steady stream of marbles. Now it's easier than ever to invite someone to church. Just share the Zoom link or forward a copy of this bulletin.

Who do you care about enough to invite to church this week?

Acts of Random Kindness

Faith in Jesus works itself out through how we live amongst others. How we practice faith is the single most powerful way we have of demonstrating faith to others. What will you do this week for someone else?

Phone / Go Walking Together / Get Messages
Or something else!

Act of
Random
Kindness

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Highlighted Resource....

Every week a different resource will be highlighted that can help you This week...



CPO (Christian Publishing & Outreach) have created resources for every occasion. Christmas cards, inspirational posters, bookmarks and a whole host of others. You can contact them either via the web: cpo.org.uk or by phone: 01903 263354 or by post: Christian Publishing & Outreach Ltd. 1 Easting Close, Worthing, BN14 8HQ

A few hours browsing through all they have to offer will not be time misspent.

If you have access to the internet, check www.grantonchurch.org.uk and click **SUBSCRIBE** to get Thought for the Day delivered every day.

If you no longer wish to receive this by post, or want to update your contact details please call Norman on 0131 551 2159

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