

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Sunday 1st November 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 : 982 2448 2457
- 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.



facebook
LIVE

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

grantonchurch.org.uk

Thoughts for The Day (Weekly Digest)

Monday Oct 26: Ian McLaughlan

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

Matthew 14 : 13 – 14

Jesus, like many of us at times, needed to get away from the crowd when dealing with the death of a loved one. Jesus was grieving the horrific loss of John the Baptist not only his relation but also the one who had baptised him and, it is thought, his mentor during his formative years.

Solitude can be a helpful way to deal with pain privately, either in the quietness of the garden, up in the hills, in the countryside, walking along the beach or even finding quiet spaces in busy cities - places where we have all perhaps felt that little bit closer to God remembering the suffering of his son, our Saviour.

Jesus didn't dwell on his grief but instead returned to his ministry of healing the sick and preaching the good news. How many of us have kept ourselves busy during a period of grief "keeping our mind off things" as people will say in support of us at our time of sorrow.

It's now 24 years ago, but I remember clearly keeping myself busy following the death of my father by starting a new job and moving house in the weeks that

followed. This busyness might have been seen as being a bit extreme in keeping my mind off the important process of grieving and something I often reflect on as a time when I didn't really do justice in helping me to deal with the impact of loss.

Prayer: Loving Lord, be with us in our times of solitude and suffering. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on you and to see the brighter days ahead.

Action: The next time you are alone with your thoughts remember to thank God for his goodness and for his mercies even in times of sorrow.

Tuesday Oct 27: Norman Smith

As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

Matthew 14 : 15 – 17

The disciples cared for people who were following Jesus. Being normal people they were very rooted in practical things so it was quite natural to look at the crowds and worry over who would feed them.

Jesus on the other hand worked both in the practical and the super-natural. In doing so he gave the disciples (and the crowds) an idea of how powerful God is. That which is impossible for us is very possible for God.

Too often we forget that God is a God of the impossible. He is not limited by human frailness or weakness.

Pray: Heavenly Father, thank you for being willing to act in this world. May people see that you are powerful but also merciful and gracious, through the work of your Spirit in the world.

Action: Raise your expectations and imagine what God might do in your life today.

Wednesday Oct 28: David Moodie

“Bring them here to me,” he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Matthew 14 : 18 – 21

Imagine what it would have felt like to have been there watching as Jesus took this small packed lunch and watching it

transform into a bountiful feast. There must have been so much excitement and joy as people enjoyed this miraculous meal together, sharing what Jesus provided for them.

But Jesus offers more than a meal, he provides us with peace, joy, hope, everything our spirits needs to sustain us. And this story reminds us that God’s provision is abundant. It’s no coincidence that after everyone was fed, the disciples could fill 12 baskets of leftovers. In the Bible 12 represents God’s people (i.e. the 12 Tribes of Israel), so the baskets are a sign that God has enough for all his people. There is more than enough for everyone and no one will go hungry. This is Jesus’s promise to us.

Prayer: Generous God, thank you for sustaining us with the bread of life. Thank you for all the ways you provide for me. For every blessing I am truly grateful.

Act: If you’re not already in the habit, take the time to say grace before your meals today. And don’t just thank God for the food, be thankful for everything God has provided you.

Thursday Oct 29: David Moodie

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

Matthew 14 : 22 – 24

This passage contains one of several moments where we're told Jesus withdrew from the crowds and sent his disciples away so that he could be alone to pray. Often this is interpreted as Jesus needing time to rest and recuperate. It makes sense, he had after all been preaching to thousands of people all day, it could well be that he was exhausted and needed a chance to rest.

But I wonder is there is another reason. Jesus had just performed an amazing miracle in front of thousands of spectators hanging on his every word. Imagine what an adrenaline rush that would have been, imagine how important and powerful you would feel? He may well have been tired but I would also bet Jesus was riding an incredible high, and who wouldn't be after such spectacular event. But highs bring their own risks. They can feed our egos, encourage us to chase the next high and too much time in that space leads to burnout.

So I wonder if Jesus going to pray on his own wasn't simply about having a rest, but about recentring himself after that experience. Jesus mission wasn't about his ego but about his relationship with God, so after a big spectacle he removed himself from the adoring crowds and from his devoted followers and chose to pray on his own. Instead of getting carried away with an emotional high, Jesus grounded himself in what mattered most. And that is good advice for all of us. We should be wary of chasing the high and remember to always take time away from the hype to ground ourselves in what matters most.

Prayer: God my rock, keep me rooted in what matters most. In times of hype and great excitement, help me to stay humble and grounded. Help me to resist the temptation to make it all about me, and instead celebrate working alongside others.

Act: Take at least a minute today to pray on your own and ground yourself. Practice it now so that when things are busy you'll know how to stay rooted in God.

Friday Oct 30: Dan Docwra

Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

Matthew 14 : 25 – 27

Of course the disciples were terrified when they saw Jesus walking on the water. Some of them were fishermen. so they were fully familiar with the ways of water, its textures, its transparency and its wetness if you didn't take care!.

There was a time, even in the recent past, when it was unusual to meet a sailor who could swim. The reason for this was that if your ship sank, it was better to drown quickly than to await the end slowly in the cold waters.

Could this have been the case with those

fisherman disciples? They were probably terrified that Jesus was about to drown, their faith was not yet as solid as it would become.

So, why was Jesus walking on water? What was he demonstrating? Was he inviting his followers to experience the power and presence of God, who alone treads on the waves of the sea.

In his book "If you want to Walk on Water, you've got to get out of the Boat." John Ortberg invites his reader to consider the incredible potential of faith that awaits you outside your comfort zone. "Out of the risky waters of faith, Jesus is waiting to meet you in ways that will change you forever,...."

Prayer: Father, help us not to be afraid when we are asked to undertake a task of faith outside our comfort zone, knowing that if we are called, then Jesus will be with us.

Action: Don't be swayed away from undertaking important tasks.

Saturday Oct 31: Mary Macleod Rivett

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

Matthew 14 : 28 – 29

I love Peter – he's so human. He was an emotional man, following his impulses, who climbed out of his fishing boat to walk on the water. He was familiar with the sea. He knew about drowning. He probably didn't swim – in the old days, most fishermen didn't because it meant your drowning lasted longer. But he tests Jesus by saying 'call me to come', and then, when Jesus calls, Peter answers that call and steps over the side of the boat. It's extraordinary!

Our actions are limited by what we think we can do, but Jesus calls us to trust Him and go beyond that. We ask him to speak to us, in prayer and through others, and in response He will call us to step out of what we know, trusting his love and saving, following his voice.

Prayer: Blessed Lord, in your life on earth, you called your disciples to do things they would never have thought of. Fishermen walked on water, taught, taxmen preached. Help us not to fear your voice, give us courage to listen and step out of the boat when you call, knowing your love will always keep and support us. Amen

Action: focus today on trying to hear when Jesus may be calling you to do something out of your usual comfort zone and respond to His call.

Sunday Nov 1: Karen Docwra

But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand

and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

Matthew 14 : 30 – 31

I'm guessing none of us have ever leapt out of a boat in an endeavour to walk on water - but we may well know that feeling of being out of our depth in one way or another. I wonder if there are times when, like Peter, we launch into something but then start to doubt ourselves and our ability to achieve what we set out to do.

What do we do in these circumstances? Do we flounder and rely on our own strength to fight against whatever is dragging us down - or do we turn to Jesus and ask for his help to get through?

Even though Peter demonstrated great faith in getting out of the boat, once he took his eyes off Jesus, the distractions of the wind and the waves pulled him down and fear took over. Jesus, of course, saved Peter, even if he subsequently questioned the depth of Peter's faith, something which must have been hard to hear when he was sitting shivering in sopping wet clothes!

What I love about the gospel narrative about Peter, is that none of his failings or mishaps put him off. He doesn't worry about getting it right all the time but keeps his eyes fixed on Jesus and throws himself wholeheartedly into whatever comes next. Something to remember the next time we feel out of our depth and are tempted simply to give up!

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we know that, as Christians, we are not exempt from being

in situations where we feel overwhelmed. Help us to know that you are with us and that you give us strength and courage to face even the toughest of times. Amen

Action: Think of someone you know who is struggling at the moment. Reflect on their situation and pray for them.

THE BULLETIN

You may have noticed this is a different kind of bulletin.

Rather than people getting different bits 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!

Want to meet other people and explore faith together? If yes then this is for you. We have set up small groups that will meet regularly for around 40 mins. If you are interested in joining please contact Sarah. Her email is on the back page.



The Marble Challenge



There is a jar in the church that every 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...

Local to Edinburgh but with a world wide appeal is Fischy Music. This is an organisation that writes inspiring songs for all ages that will help to lift your mood as well as sustain your faith. Check out

fischymusic

[About us](#) [What We Offer](#) [Supporting Children](#)



<https://www.fischy.com/>

A great resource when you want to praise the Lord.

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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