

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

Sunday 21st February 2021

[grantonchurch.org.uk](http://grantonchurch.org.uk)

# Granton



The Church of Scotland

## Join this Sunday's service at 10.30am

By computer/smartphone - go to [grantonchurch.org.uk](http://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 you will have a few options from contacting the Treasurer and giving direct or 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**

## Coming Up Next

The gospel is 'Good News' for anyone who hears it. God sent Jesus into this world that even in the darkest of times we can have hope. Between now and Easter we are going to explore inspiring Bible stories of people who found hope when life was hard.

Good News  
For  
The People

# Thoughts for The Day (Weekly Digest)

## Monday Feb 15: Sarah Smith

As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" Matthew 20: 29 – 31

Jesus had a reputation. People knew who he was and the miracles he had done. These blind men were earnest in their cry to God. They showed faith in seeking out Jesus. These men were not timid, and did not allow a large crowd of people stop them from seeking out Jesus. They knew what they wanted, and were willing to do what they needed to do in order to seek out Jesus for healing.

Prayer: God who heals, we give you thanks that you constantly encourage us to seek you out and call on your name. You provide healing for all people; may we be bold enough to ask for that healing. Amen.

Action: Be bold in asking for something you need.

## Tuesday Feb 16 (Shrove Tuesday): Norman Smith

Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. "Lord," they answered, "we want our sight." Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

Matthew 20: 32 – 34

Being the day before Lent a lot of people who are giving up something for lent go for a last blast. Whether it is chocolate, alcohol, social media, tv, etc., they make sure to enjoy it one last time. To be fair, most of us give up pretty meaningless things we know we will get back. These two men had never known sight, no colour, no shapes, no knowing what either themselves or each other looked like. For them the opportunity Jesus represented was a once in a lifetime offer that would never come again. That perhaps explains their insistence. When you have your pancakes today consider how you would approach Jesus if you knew he was never passing this way again? What would be different?

Prayer: Jesus, please forgive me for sometimes taking you for granted. I

know I can always turn to you and you will hear my prayers. Sometimes that makes me complacent when I should be insistent.

Action: Spend some time with Jesus as we go in to Lent tomorrow.

**Wednesday Feb 17 (Ash Wednesday):  
Mary Macleod Rivett**

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

Matthew 21: 1 – 3

Most of us, at some point in our lives, will have made a decision that we are going to create a confrontation, stir up a conflict or open an argument, in order to try to resolve an underlying conflict or even just because we're angry and we want to. Or maybe that is just me? Mostly, for us, this is a sin – there are generally less unkind and less painful ways to resolve issues between us, but sometimes, our human nature demands a row. And, sometimes, a confrontation is the right thing.

Today is the first day of Lent, when some Christians start a period of fasting and prayer, building up to Easter. It is appropriate, therefore, that we should be starting to think about Jesus arrival to Jerusalem just now, because borrowing a donkey in Bethphage was the beginning of his approach to the end of his earthly life. Jesus and the apostles were all aware that the prophet Zechariah had said that the Messiah would come riding on a donkey, and in borrowing the donkey, Jesus was fulfilling this prophecy. Rather than avoiding confrontation, Jesus walked straight into it, in full knowledge of the likely outcome.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, give me the grace to know when to argue and when to persuade, when to make peace and when to confront. Help me to understand myself, and to know when I am honouring your example and when I'm following my own human will. Amen

Action: read forward through the next two or three chapters of Matthew, and look at the ways in which Jesus taught the crowds in Jerusalem, and how the scribes and Pharisees responded.

**Thursday Feb 18: David Moodie**

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

“Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Matthew 21: 4 – 5

Imagine you heard the Queen was coming to Granton. You organised a welcome, hung the bunting, and arranged for everyone to come and meet her. Then at the time she was due to arrive, a beat up ‘05 reg Nissan Micra pulled up to the kerb and the Queen emerged wearing joggers. Do you think you’d be a little surprised?

In Jesus’s day Kings usually arrived on great warhorses or luxurious palanquins, they symbolised their wealth and power. But this King was riding the common animal, the kind the peasants used. Because this King’s greatness didn’t come from his vast fortune or loyal soldiers. This King was the one sent by God, who carried with him God’s power and blessing.

We still live in a society where people feel the need to project their worth by showing off their wealth and status: fats cars, luxury watches, designer clothes. They are intended to remind other how wealthy and important the wearer is. But as Christians we don’t need those kinds of reminders, because we know that our true

wealth comes from the depth of our relationship with God.

Prayer: God our King, my greatest blessing is to know you and to know that I am loved. Nothing else could compare! Help me to trust that that is enough.

Action: Next time you are tempted to show off, ask yourself ‘what am I trying to prove?’.

### **Friday Feb 19: Ian McLaughlan**

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Matthew 21: 6 – 9

And so to the preparations for the well-remembered parade in the bible, the Triumphant Entry Into Jerusalem, when all the focus was on Jesus preparing to ride into the capital. But I wonder what it was like for the other

witnesses in the lead up to the big procession?

**The Two Disciples:** We know that the disciples have not always acted with obedience to Jesus' instructions but on this occasion the two disciples showed no hesitation in acquiring the donkey and its foal.

**The Owners of the Donkey and the Colt:** Interestingly (in Mark 11:4) we know that the owners were satisfied with why the disciples were taking their prized possessions and showed trust in Jesus's promise to return them.

**The Large Crowd:** In thinking about the crowd throwing the palm branches onto the ground, I often forget that many in the crowd also showed selflessness by throwing their robes onto the dirty ground (a show of great respect in those days).

**The Crowds That Went Ahead and Followed:** Being a Motherwell supporter, I'm not used to big crowds (!) so I can't imagine the feeling of euphoria the crowd experienced all shouting 'Hosanna to the Son of David' which in Hebrew literally means 'Save us'.

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for helping me today to think about obedience, trust,

selflessness and hosanna in my following of you, Amen

**Action:** Give thanks for the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem.

### **Saturday Feb 20: Sarah Smith**

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."  
Matthew 21: 10 – 11

Many people were gathered in Jerusalem for a religious festival, so there were a lot of people gathered in Jerusalem. The crowds were people who had been with Jesus before this entry into Jerusalem, and would continue to follow him afterwards. They knew who Jesus was and wanted to share this with all those gathered in Jerusalem. They were filled with joy to share this joy with all those gathered there.

**Prayer:** Loving God, we give you thanks for the amazing work you have done for us and for this world. We might lose sight of your work when things go wrong, and don't go how we want them to. Even in those times, may we remember how amazing you are and continue to share about you with this world and shout it out with joy. Amen.

Action: Share about Jesus with joy, so that people can learn who he is.

### **Sunday 21st Karen Docwra**

Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. "It is written," he said to them, "'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'" Matthew 21: 12 – 13

Anger may not be the first characteristic that springs to mind when you think of Jesus but here we have one of a small number of passages where Jesus clearly displays his feelings. The commercial activity in the Temple meant that those that were selling were not only taking advantage of the pilgrims but that everyone – traders and visitors alike - had completely lost sight of the sanctity of the space.

Jesus intervenes in the situation, putting a stop to their behaviour and

stamping his authority on Temple activities. It's true to say that Jesus was outraged at the hypocrisy and injustice of what was taking place.

What outrages you? What are examples of hypocrisy and injustice that get you hot under the collar? Are there metaphorical tables that you would like to overturn? We probably only need to look around us or read the news ...

The 16th Century mystic, Teresa of Ávila said "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours." How does that challenge speak to us in the light of injustice?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, as we continue our journey through Matthew's gospel, we pray that we will come to know you better and to understand your words and your actions. We ask for courage to stand up to injustice. Amen.

Action: Reflect on what outrages you and pray for wisdom to know what action to take.

## **Our Church Values**

Everything we do is rooted in **JESUS CHRIST**

**EQUALITY** is based on who you are and not what you have

**EVERYONE** is valued and everyone has gifts that can be offered to God

**COMMUNITY** brings with it respect across the generations and cultures

# Lent Prayer Garden

Sometimes it is only when you lose something you begin to realise what a gift

it was in the first place. We cannot right now worship in the building but we can use the grounds to help us worship. They are a gift that we should make the most of.

During Lent you will find the Boswall Parkway gate unlocked with inspirational messages on the trees along with a wooden cross in the grounds where you are encouraged to go and pray. As you go for your daily walk, why not pop into the garden to encourage yourself?

Please observe social distancing as you make use of the Prayer Garden.

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.



## 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...

Act of  
Random  
Kindness

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

Community Groups have banded together to see people in need are looked after.

If you need help please phone the number opposite.

## COVID-19 Foodshare Group Support and Help available in North Edinburgh

(Muirhouse/Salvesen/Pilton/Granton/Drylaw/Telford)



New  
Community  
Helpline:

0131 356 0220

10am – 4pm  
Mon – Fri



Due to current Government regulations all church activity is being held online. Keep checking the website for details.

# PRAY IT FORWARD

We want everyone in the church family to be prayed for. Are you willing to spend some time at home praying for other people? If you are you will be given a list of people to pray for on a weekly basis. You may know them, you may not, they will all be part of our church family. Let Norman or one of the Ministry team know if you will be part of the prayer team.

## Pray Together **Thu 11th Mar 7pm, Zoom**

Join with others online as we spend an hour praying together for those we know and the world we live in. You will need a pen, some paper and a candle.

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



[grantonchurch.org.uk](http://grantonchurch.org.uk)

If you have access to the internet, check [www.grantonchurch.org.uk](http://www.grantonchurch.org.uk) and click SUBSCRIBE to get Thought for the Day delivered every day.

If you don't have access to the internet and would like to receive this by post, or want to update your contact details please call Norman on 0131 551 2159

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