

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Sunday 22nd 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



Bright Hope
for
Tomorrow

Thoughts for The Day (Weekly Digest)

Monday Nov 16:

Mary Macleod Rivett

He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people.

Matthew 15: 35 – 36

This story of the feeding of the crowds, is one of the Bible passages which was taught to all of us as children. It's a wonderful, generous miracle on Jesus' part. He feeds all those who have been listening to him teach, who have come to him for physical, emotional and spiritual healing. Sometimes, though, we don't look any further into what this could mean for us. When Jesus had given thanks for the food, he broke it and shared it out. It was barely a meal for one person - the 'loaves' might have been more like buns! But rather than keeping it, he passed it to the disciples, and they divided it further and passed it out to everyone else, and it was enough.

We spend a lot of our lives afraid that we might not have enough, clutching to keep things for ourselves, but Jesus shows us a different way here. He has blessed us with enough and overflowing; he has handed out food, shelter, work, family, life and Creation, to us and for us. Here he shows us a different way to live, where we set aside fear and give openly to others. He asks us to trust that there will be enough for everyone.

Prayer: Jesus, you showed us another way of life, one of generosity and courage, where we trust in your provision and give to those who need. Free us from our fear, we pray. Help us to see where we can give of our resources and ourselves to help those around us. Amen

Action: look at the resources you have, whether financial or personal. Think about how you can use them to help others.

Tuesday Nov 17: Anne Macintosh

They all ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was four thousand men, besides women and children. After Jesus had sent the crowd away, he got into the boat and went to the vicinity of Magadan.

Matthew 15: 37 – 39

You know the saying you are always learning something, well I had always thought that there was only one feeding of the multitude and while researching for this thought for the day I found out there were 2 very similar events in consecutive chapters of Matthew. There was the feeding of the 5,000 and the 4,000! There were differences in the stories -

where each of these miracles took place – one was in a mainly Jewish area and the

other in a Gentile region

the amount of food distributed – 5 loaves and 2 fish compared with 7 loaves and a few fish

the number of baskets that were filled at the end – 12 baskets and 7 baskets

There are seemingly hidden meanings in each story, but the main point of them was to show that God provides for us. He loves all His people, both Jew and Gentile. Even though, to us, feeding all these people would be daunting, Jesus shows that all things are possible with God.

Prayer:

Dear God,

We come before you with all our struggles and hardships. We are living through challenging times but we believe that nothing is impossible for you. Thank you for your love and providing for our needs.

Amen

Action: This may be a good day for the people around us or this may be a day when they need our support to help them get through it. We may need to remind them that all things are possible with God.

**Wednesday Nov 18:
Norman Smith**

The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven.

He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.'

You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.

Matthew 16: 1 – 3

I used to drive my mum nuts. She had to resort to storing our Christmas presents with the next-door neighbour because there was nowhere in our house I couldn't find them. I was a good detective. Yet at the same time I often got into trouble because of doing stupid things where she said, 'you should have known better'. Even today I can exhibit knowing things and doing stupid things in the same minute! We are all like this. We all have the ability to read signs to see where things lie and yet to miss other things.

In Jesus day he was amazed the Pharisees could see so much but yet missed so much. They did everything they could to keep people worshipping God but missed God who walked amongst them. They knew everything there was to know about the law but missed the essentials of what it meant to follow God.

Especially for those of us in the church we need to make sure church never draws our eyes from Jesus. Church is there to help us worship and follow Jesus, not the other way round.

Pray: Father. I love my church. I really love my church family. Give to me the perspective to see when my love of church gets in the way of my love of you. Help me to keep my eyes firmly focused on you.

Act: Think about Jesus. What Would Jesus Do?

Thursday Nov 19: David Moodie

A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah.” Jesus then left them and went away.

Matthew 16: 4

Jesus often told people to repent. The word for repentance Greek, *Metanoia*, literally means a change of mind. This is more than a change of opinion but a whole different way of thinking.

Jonah was a man who wouldn't listen to God. He was given a task but resisted it, even going to far as to charter a ship and flee the country. To get Jonah's attention God turn to more drastic measures. Jonah was thrown overboard and swallowed by a fish. After 3 days in the fish he finally repented, he changed his mind. And so Jonah was spat on shore and went to do the task God had asked of him.

Change is hard. We are often stubborn and don't want to lose what is familiar. It's more convenient to carry on as we are, even if it's harmful to ourselves or others. Sometimes to repent, to have a really big change, requires us to go through something intense (though hopefully nothing as dramatic as being swallowed by a fish). These are often really difficult times, but once we go through them we can emerge changed and better able to live the life God intends for us.

But the greatest change is the one Jesus did for us. Jesus gave his life on the cross and was buried a man murdered by the state. He was entombed for three days, but then emerged alive, the Risen King.

Romans 4 tells us “By our baptism, then, we were buried with him and shared his death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life.” In Christ change is always possible

Pray: Risen Lord Jesus, I repent from all the things that keep me from experiencing the life, peace and love that you offer. Help me to change my mind and my heart so I can be more open to you, more caring for others and more in love with the created world.

Act: What thing have you been putting off doing? Maybe today is the day to make a change.

Friday Nov 20: Sarah Smith

When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. “Be careful,” Jesus said to them. “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

They discussed this among themselves and said, “It is because we didn't bring any bread.”

Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, “You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? Do you still not understand?”

Matthew 16: 5 – 8

There is nothing worse than when you have been trying to explain something to someone for a long time, and they still don't get it. You have been teaching them, showing them through examples, and trying to hammer home your lesson, and they are just not getting it. I can only imagine the frustration I have caused

different people who have tried to teach me something, and I have totally missed the point, and haven't understood what they were trying to teach me.

Jesus has been teaching the disciples about the things of heaven. He has been teaching them something that requires them to step away from what they know, and what is comfortable, and they miss it. Here again, Jesus has been teaching, and the disciples have totally missed what he has been teaching, and are worried about whether or not they have enough bread. They have forgotten the nourishment Jesus provides, and the love and care Jesus provides.

The good news is that Jesus keeps teaching. When we don't get it, when we miss the point, Jesus pulls us back, and gets us back in the lesson. We just need to keep learning how to follow Jesus, and keep practicing. Don't give up, even when it doesn't make sense. Keep going, and ask for help.

Prayer: Loving God, there are times in our lives when we miss the point, when we don't see what you are trying to show us and teach us. When we don't understand, grant us patience and grace to keep going, and not give up when we think we will never get it. Help us keep our eyes on you, and continue following you. Amen.

Action: Keep going, even when you think you will never understand.

Saturday Nov 21: Mary Macleod Rivett

Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the

four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Matthew 16: 9 – 12

In this reading, Jesus is reminding his disciples that the miracles that he has done, the feeding of the great crowds of people who had been following Him, was not just about feeding their physical hunger. Time and time again, he emphasised that the miracles were there to show that He had God-given authority. He is telling them to look at His actions, and then listen to His teaching. The Pharisees and the Sadducees had education, respect, spiritual authority, but Jesus was telling the disciples that they should be listening to Him rather than the accepted authority figures of their culture, when there was a difference in what was being said.

This was a difficult thing for the disciples to accept – it went against their culture, what they'd been taught to do and to expect. What about us? Who do we listen to when there's a difference between what Jesus says, and what our culture or authority figures ask of us? Who do we follow?

Prayer: Beloved Lord Jesus, help me to hear your voice and understand your teaching clearly. Don't let me be led astray by the culture and society that I've been brought up in, but day by day lead me ever closer to you, along the path that you

have set before me. Amen

Action: Is there something about our society and way of life that Jesus is showing you doesn't fit with his teaching and call? Think about whether you can do anything about this in your life or the life of your community.

Sunday Nov 22: Norman Smith

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Matthew 16: 13 – 14

Weren't the disciples an interesting bunch? We tend to think of them as spending all their time with Jesus when in fact they spent a lot of time acting as Jesus eyes and ears amongst the people. There are stories in the Gospels of them bringing people to Jesus, of distributing the bread when he fed the 500 and sadly of them keeping the children from him at

one point. They were perfectly placed to hear what others were saying about Jesus.

Even with Jesus physically present and doing miracles left right and centre there was still a mixed reaction. You can see from the text how people did believe he was special. However that did not translate to being the messiah. Tomorrow will look at who the disciples thought he was. Before we get to that, today might be a good day to explore what you think of Jesus? Who is he to you? Good teacher, messiah, prophet, friend, something else? How rooted is your idea of Jesus in popular culture, folklore or the Bible?

Pray: Dear God, you are many things to many people. My prayer is to know you personally as my saviour. I come to you because I trust you and I believe you are the Son of God.

Act: Ask a couple of people round you who they think Jesus is and explore with them their answer.

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

Granton's Community Tree lighting event First Sunday in Advent – 29th November at 5pm.

Join in on Facebook Live

The lighting of the community Christmas Tree in the grounds of the parish church at the start of Advent has become a great annual event where the community gathers together to start celebrating Christmas. There is usually singing, mince pies, fun and a great gathering of people!



Different this year!

However we all know that Christmas is going to be very different this year, and our annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting will be no exception. The good news is that we will once again be kicking off our Christmas season with a scaled-back event on the First Sunday In Advent – Sunday 29th November – at 5pm.

Be Part Of It

You can be part of your community by joining the event live on Facebook. You can watch as the tree lights are switched on at 5pm, then you can share photos of your own lights – and if it's too early for your tree why not post a pic of a candle or welcome lights in your window?

Make an event of it and have some mince pies and hot chocolate ready to enjoy in the safety of your own home.

Visit when it suits

The tree will be up from 29th November right through the season of Advent and Christmas and into the new year, so why not take a few moments over this period to visit and enjoy the tree with the family. Make a bit of quiet time to look back on this very difficult year. The gates will be open and you are welcome to stand by the tree any time – of course following Government guidelines on social distancing!

Together we will remind each other why Granton is such a great place to be and that we can celebrate the start of the Christmas season even in these strange and unfamiliar times.

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...

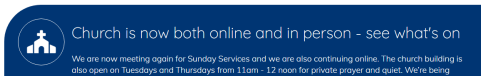


Highlighted Resource....

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

Have you ever really looked at our own church website? There is so much there, both to inform you of what your church family does and how to help grow your faith. This week we are encouraging people to look around our own site.

Spend some time looking over the church website and be amazed!



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



grantonchurch.org.uk

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

Minister:

Rev Norman Smith

norman@granton.org.uk
0131 551 2159

Session Clerk:

Dan Docwra

dan@granton.org.uk
0131 467 4239

Parish Assistants:

David Moodie

david@granton.org.uk
0785 663 0956

Sarah Smith

sarah@granton.org.uk

Treasurer:

Alan Summers

alan@granton.org.uk

Communications

Chas Macintosh

chas@granton.org.uk
0779 532 3889

Worship

Norman Smith

norman@granton.org.uk

Outreach

David Moodie

david@granton.org.uk

Nurture

Linda Young

linda@granton.org.uk

Social

Sandra Cumming

sandrac@granton.org.uk

Property

Neil MacDonald

neil@granton.org.uk

Pastoral Visit Team Lead

Gillian Macintosh

gillian@granton.org.uk

Safeguarding

Linda Young

linda@granton.org.uk

grantonchurch.org.uk

Climate & Re-Use Project
grantongoesgreener.org.uk