

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Sunday 14th February 2021

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 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 8: Mary Macleod Rivett

“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’ Matthew 20: 8 – 12

This is such a pointed story about human nature, isn't it? The workers who were hired at the beginning of the day had freely made an agreement to work for a denarius a day – this was the standard rate of pay for a man, and they were glad to receive it and have work for the day. But when the time came to get their payment at the end of the day, and they became aware that everyone was getting the same, regardless of how long they had been working, they became resentful. Their agreement had been honoured, but they were very unhappy. It's important not to compare

ourselves with others – it rarely leads to happiness. Our lives and our relationship with God aren't something for comparison, they're something to be grateful for. We never know what is between another person and God, and judging our lives and situation by theirs won't help us to grow or flourish. Instead, we can count God's blessings to us, we can rejoice in his utter faithfulness to us, and we can trust that he will always honour his promises.

Prayer: Beloved Father, thank you for your blessings, faithfulness and honour towards me and mine. Thank you for the generous provision that sustains us, for the creation that feeds us and for the love within which you keep and support all things. Amen

Action: try to be aware when you compare yourself to someone else, and turn your mind to God's blessings to you instead.

Tuesday Feb 9: David Moodie

“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” Matthew 20: 13 – 16

Equality means different things to different people. For someone who has little, who has been downtrodden, equality is a great thing. Equality means they will get a bigger slice of the pie, better treatment and more opportunities. But for someone who is well-off and privileged equality is a disaster. It means losing their advantages, sharing what they have, and taking on a more humble role. It's no surprise that issues around inequality and fair treatment are some of the most contentious political issues in any society.

But it's the same with spiritual equality. God is the ultimate egalitarian: in God's eyes we are all equal. But that can mean different things to different people. For people on the margins: the sinners, outcasts and misfits, this is a great thing. In God's eyes they are just as good as anyone. For the people on the inside: the righteous, the well-to-dos and Churchy types, this can be a bitter pill to swallow. It means that no matter how many Bible verses you memorize, how lofty your prayers are, or how squeaky clean your record is, none of that is going to get you ahead. Equality often requires a deal of humility.

But in the long run this equality is

good for everyone. Because it means that our value is not in what we've done, it comes from the generosity of a God who loves us unconditionally. This may mean losing the things that make you feel special now, but what we gain is much more valuable.

Prayer: Loving God, thank you that your love for me is not conditional, there's nothing I need to do to earn your care and blessing. Help me to accept others with the same generous heart that you show to me.

Action: Try to notice when you are judgemental today. Remind yourself that in God's eyes they matter just as much as you do.

Wednesday Feb 10: Sarah Smith

Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!” Matthew 20: 17 – 19

Jesus foretells of his death and resurrection again. He tells it just to his disciples in this passage of what is to come. He wants to prepare them for what they will witness, and it is not an easy thing for them to hear,

but he doesn't end with death, he ends with the resurrection. He ends with hope. Even in these days when we see staggering numbers of deaths from COVID-19, we know that death does not have the last word.

Prayer: Gracious God, we are in a time of grieving as we grieve the loss of so much. Even in the midst of this time of sorrow and grief, you remind us that death, grief, suffering do not have the last word. Hope, resurrection, and love have the last word. Help us to hold on to this during this time, and even after this time. Amen.

Action: Do something that brings hope to you or to someone else.

Thursday Feb 11: Norman Smith

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favour of him. "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." Matthew 20: 20 – 22

A term I came across a couple of years ago was 'lawnmower mum'; someone who would mow down any obstacle to the advancement of her child. What we have here is a lawnmower mum looking to secure her boys the best spots in Jesus new kingdom. Who would be beside Jesus but the most

worthy, most honoured, most blessed; the first amongst equals of all the disciples. Spots that she obviously considered would secure her children the best future.

What this tells us is that she hadn't fully grasped the true nature of Christ's kingdom but was measuring it the same way she did secular kingdoms round about. When Jesus becomes King, my boys will be beside him the same way Herod's sons are beside him or Caesars closest people are beside him.

How well do you understand the true nature of Christ's Kingdom? Have you taken the time to read how he describes it in the Gospels?

Prayer: Dear God, open my eyes to the true nature of your Kingdom. I am a human in a human world where people vie for power all the time. Help me to understand what you means by your Kingdom.

Action: Carve out 60-90 minutes this week to read the gospel of Mark in one sitting.

Friday Feb 12: Macleod Rivett

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will indeed

drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.” Matthew 20: 22 – 23

Jesus asks two of his closest friends ‘can you do what I’m going to have to do?’ And they say ‘yes’, not knowing, or not acknowledging what they’re saying yes to. People say that you should always read the small print before you sign anything, but James and John just assumed that the success Jesus was going towards was success as their culture saw it. They took it for granted that they were all headed for a future of power, influence and full synagogues!

All too often we assume that success in the church is about numbers, that we can measure God’s work by heads in pews, bank balances and great music. But the success that Jesus, and after him James and John, were headed for was short ministry, rejection, torture and death. None of them, in their earthly life, was to see where the church would go. We can break our hearts, sometimes, reaching for things which are not important in God’s sight, rather than trusting in God and doing the tasks that are put in front of us. We talk about ‘failure’ and ‘success’ when God measures these in totally different ways from us. It’s when God gives us grace to let go of these ideas that we can really be

free to be used for the kingdom.

Prayer: Beloved lord Jesus, please show me where I have been too concerned about failure and success in the eyes of my culture and the world and help me to see the world around me with your eyes. Show me, I pray, what you want me to do and where you want me to work to serve you and others. Amen

Action: count how many times today you think about someone or something as a success or failure, and make a note of these.

Saturday Feb 13: Dan Docwra

When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave Matthew 20 v 24 - 27

"The person who labours most diligently and suffers most patiently, seeking to do good to their brethren - they most resemble Christ. They will be most honoured by him through all eternity." (Spurgeon)

Among his followers there were some

whose desire for position and status were at odds with the nature of Jesus himself. He shunned status, money and popularity as traits of leadership. Humble service was the shining example that was his ministry. Real ministry is done for the benefit of those ministered to, not for the benefit of the minister.

He did not come among us to be served, but to serve

During this Pandemic, in hospitals throughout the world, there have been many instances in which senior medical specialists have put their senior positions aside to work within teams in caring for patients, doing the lowliest but essential jobs - sharing the dangers regardless of the risks. All working for the good of their community.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me not to wait for others to undertake tasks that I feel below me. Let me feel the wonder that comes from serving others.

Action: Seek out ways to be willing givers of service to others .

Sunday Feb 14: Norman Smith

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Matthew 20: 28

Many rulers have come into this world with a view to holding onto power once they get it. Never mind all the nice platitudes of serving people when you actually look at how they ruled you can clearly see they were about keeping power to themselves. Whether it was Caligula, Idi Amin, Saddam Hussein or any one of a multitude of others we have no shortage of examples.

Then we come to Jesus who from his earliest days modelled an entirely different way to rule. He never lorded it over people, nor did he advance himself but always understood that he was serving the higher purpose of redeeming humanity, even at the cost of his own life.

You might think you have no power but you probably do. Amongst your family and friends, who do you influence? Around your neighbours and work colleagues who follows your lead?

Prayer: Father as a follower of Jesus help me to live as he lived. Help my actions, my words and my thoughts, serve your Kingdom.

Action: Consider carefully who you influence and how you influence them.

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

Cook-Inn' food bank is operating in our area. Up to once-weekly fresh and / or packaged food parcels, to be collected; or delivered to those of low mobility. Special diets catered for on request. They can be texted on; 07531 436 389, or messaged from the 'Cook-Inn SE Scotland' facebook page. They are a not-for-profit organisation, and receive no government funding. This allows them to give out fresh food as well as packaged or tinned. It also allows us to give food bags to someone as often as they need - weekly is the norm. If you know of someone who could use help please dial the number shown above.



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.



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

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 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

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

Karen Docwra
karen@granton.org.uk

Social

Sandra Cumming
sandrac@granton.org.uk

Property

Neil MacDonald
neil@granton.org.uk

Hall Lets

Linda Young
linda@granton.org.uk

Pastoral

Gillian Macintosh
gillian@granton.org.uk

Safeguarding

Linda Young
linda@granton.org.uk

grantonchurch.org.uk

Climate & Re-Use Project
grantongoesgreener.org.uk