



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

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Climate & Re-Use Project
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WEEKLY BULLETIN

Sunday 7th March 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.



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.



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 Mar 1: David Moodie

“Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

“The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. Matthew 21: 33 – 37

This Parable is Jesus retelling the story of the Prophets. For centuries they had been the tellers of truth in the land of Israel. They had stood up to Kings, called out wrongdoing, and pleaded with the people to return to God’s path. And for their efforts they were ostracised, attacked, and sometimes killed, all for speaking the truth. The truth can sting, especially when it casts us in an unflattering light. It can be easy to lash out at the messenger. It takes character to be the kind of person who accepts the truth, even when it is uncomfortable.

Prayer: God of life, thank you for the

truths you have revealed to me. Help me to be committed to the truth. Help me to be honest in my relationships with others, and brave enough to accept uncomfortable truths.

Action: Are there any uncomfortable truths you have been avoiding? Today might be the day to face up to them.

Tuesday Mar 2: Sarah Smith

“But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Matthew 21: 38 – 39

When the tenants see this son, who they know will inherit the vineyard instead of the son. People like have certainty of what they own, and what should be theirs. When Jesus Christ came, the Pharisees felt challenged in their authority. So much of what they had known to be true, and what they thought they were in charge of is undone by Jesus. They feel challenged, because they are no longer in control. When we realise there is something we don’t have control over, how do we respond? Do we feel challenged, and push back, or do we support and follow the person who is now in charge?

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.



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.

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

make every effort to accept it and to extend the invitation to others.

Prayer: Gracious God, Thank you for your amazing invitation to be part of your Kingdom and to walk in the ways of your son. Amen

Action: Tell someone about God's grace and invite them to experience it for themselves

Sunday Mar 7: David Moodie

Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' "But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Matthew 22: 4 – 7

It is a rather sad reality that fights sometimes break out at weddings. You would think that would be the last day people would be fighting, it is supposed to be a day celebrating love and connection. Yet some people, usually after a few drinks, use the

occasion as a chance to reopen old wounds and settle scores, leading to the absurd sight of people in their Sunday best brawling on the dance floor. It's a sad sight, how could they have so badly missed the point? Jesus came with a message of love and forgiveness. He wanted to heal the sick, bring dignity to the poor, and acceptance for outsiders. He was throwing a banquet, and everyone was invited. But when faced with this positive message many responded with fear, hostility and eventually violence. The story of Jesus's life is often a sad one. But we know it has a happy ending. Because God is persistent in love and does not give up on us. No matter how far we drift there will always be a place at the banquet for us.

Prayer: Gracious God, thank you that you have freely offered your grace to us. I confess that sometimes I take it for granted. I pray that I don't ever forget your love for me and live each day in the knowledge that there is a place for me at the banquet.

Action: Don't scorn the gift God has given you, enjoy your day today! "This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it" - Psalm 118:24

Prayer: Gracious God, we are so thankful that you have come and remind us that you have come to lead us and teach us how to follow you. May we follow you and follow your example. May we continue to listen to you and follow your lead in all we say and do. Amen

Action: Take time to listen for God's voice.

Wednesday Mar 3: Norman Smith

"Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

"He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time."

Matthew 21: 40 – 41

How in control do you feel? If you ask someone who is diagnosed with a life threatening illness they will tell you that in the blink of an eye the control they thought they had turned out to be false. Same for someone hit by another car or the victim of any number of accidents. Same actually for someone whose life seems to be going along swimmingly and this should come as no surprise to us as Christians.

We often wonder why evil people prosper or the underserving seem to get ahead whilst the righteous suffer, yet this will not always be the case.

We need to remember every single one of us will ultimately stand before God and give an account of our lives; including those tenants in this story. Whilst they thought they were escaping God, getting to do what they wanted to whom they wanted, in truth they were not.

Prayer: Lord, I recognise that one day I shall stand before you to give an account of what I have done with this life. By your grace I shall stand there knowing I am a sinner with only your mercy to fall on. Please help me to recognise you are the one who is ultimately in control and not me.

Action: Keep a count of all the decisions you are subject to today that are outside your control.

Thursday Mar 4: Anne Macintosh

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes?" Matthew 21: 42

The passage Jesus quotes comes from Psalm 118 and Jesus applies these words to Himself - meaning that He is the stone that the builders rejected. The builders in this case are the Pharisees and chief priests. The Jewish leadership rejected the person who was their stone of salvation. They were

not looking for a Messiah who was like Jesus as He did not fit their idea of a Saviour. Jesus is saying that even though He was rejected by them He became the cornerstone, the most important stone in a structure. At the time Jesus was ministering, construction techniques were less high-tech than today, and it was very tricky to make the ground under a building perfectly level. So builders would mark the lowest corner and that would be the location for the strongest and most important stone. This stone was the cornerstone, and it was placed at the corner of a wall uniting two intersecting walls to avoid the building falling apart. Jesus says that He is like the cornerstone in the building, He knits and cements the church together. He is the rock upon which the weight of the entire structure rests.

Prayer: Dear God, help us make you the cornerstone of our lives. We know that anything we build without you will not last. We want you to be our foundation. Please give me insight to know your will and the courage to accept it and live it in my daily life, especially when it is not easy or does not fit my idea of the way things should be. Amen.

Action: Let us be mindful not to reject something just because it does not fit in with our ideas like the Pharisees and chief priests did. Have we got a

strong foundation relying on the cornerstone?

Friday Mar 5: Mary Macleod Rivett
“Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.” When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet. Matthew 21: 43 – 46

Jesus had been teaching and teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven in the intense time as he approached his trial and death. He was in the centre of Jerusalem, in the temple, in the heart of Jewish life, with people all around him from all over the world. Jews and God-fearing people from everywhere, were hearing the Lord proclaim that the Kingdom of God was coming, but that it was not what they had been taught to expect. He tells a series of parables about the Kingdom, and they’re particularly directed towards the religious people around him – the priests and the Pharisees. You can imagine that he was desperate for them to believe, to see, to understand, but they didn’t. So, in the end, he says ‘the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given

to others’. How tragic, how heart-breaking for him and for them. This is one of the mysteries of our faith – we can shut God out. We have been given such freedom of choice and life, that we can ignore the Creator of the universe. He can see what will come of our shutting him out, but He won’t stop us from doing it.

Prayer: Beloved Lord, thank you that you taught, and taught, and continue to teach us, always open to us even when we turn away from you and shut you out. King and Master, Creator God, thank you for the freedom of will you have given us. Help us to use it to turn to you, we pray, and turn again to you. Every time we turn away, give us grace to turn back into your ever-open arms. Amen

Action: try to be conscious of when you turn away from God, whether in small things or large ones, and catch yourself, pause, and open your heart and mind again to God.

Saturday Mar 6: Stuart Mitchell
Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. Matthew 22: 1 – 3

Weddings in Jesus’ day were more often than not grand, lavish events. The parents of the betrothed generally drew up the marriage contract. The bride and groom would meet, perhaps for the first time, when this contract was signed. The couple was considered married at this point, but they would separate until the actual time of the ceremony. The wedding banquet was one of the most joyous occasions in Jewish life and could last for up to a week. In His parable, Jesus compares heaven to a wedding banquet that a king had prepared for his son. Many people had been invited, but when the time for the banquet came and the table was set, those invited refused to come. This would have been considered a huge social faux pas and would have had consequences though perhaps not as severe as those which we will learn about later in the week. Those hearing this parable would fully have understood the point that Jesus was making. Fortunately for us God, our King, extends his invitation to follow in Jesus’ footsteps with grace and without thought of ever rescinding it or seeking vengeance should we make excuses not to accept it. He promises that we will always have a place at his table even when at times we make excuses not to accept his invitation. This grace is an amazing gift way beyond anything that could ever be offered as a wedding gift. It is priceless and we must continue to