

PERTH METHODIST CHURCH

MESSAGES AND INFO

Friday 29th May

Our usual news-sheet sheet is renamed Messages and Info and we hope it will be one of the ways we can keep in touch with each other during this strange and difficult time. Please encourage others to read it and please print a copy for anyone you know who is not on email. Please also send in any items such as personal messages or info that you wish to share with members of the congregation.

Nik Wooller gives us her Manse Musings about the unwanted and the vulnerable

A television programme from 2019 is being reshown this week It's a 'Long Lost Family' special about children abandoned at birth, the programme aims to help these people, using their DNA, to trace their families.

There are many orphans in the world today, there are still babies being abandoned, those who never knew their parents. It's been a problem through history. The Foundling Hospital' (offering hospitality) was a very famous London institution, founded in the 1740s by an old sea-captain called Thomas Coram, as a home for deserted children.

Thomas Coram had been very distressed by knowledge of the large numbers of unwanted children that were found on doorsteps or under bushes, sometimes dead from exposure because found too late. His idea was for a charitable institution that would take in these unwanted children, and care for them until they were of an age to fend for themselves. All children taken in as foundlings – even those whose names were known – were given entirely new identities at the outset. The hospital provided shelter, food, clothing, medical care, education, and work placements so its children were well equipped to cope out in the world.

We all need to know we are cared for, at times of vulnerability. I hope we will continue to remember those classed as “vulnerable” when parts of the country start to get moving again. We remember those who want reassurance. We remember those who watch the government briefing as we are unsure if it is safe to send children back to school.

Jesus said “I will not leave you orphaned, I am coming to you.”

Jesus, into the panic of his friends, announces a comforter, his presence with them in a new way. I don't think they got what he meant at all. Imagine being in that upper room listening to him. So much to take in. But his message to them was you will never be on your own. And surely that is the heart of the Gospel, isn't it?

That no matter how unsettling life is, no matter how abandoned by society we feel, no matter how fearful we are about this virus, no matter what happens to us in life especially when things we thought we could rely on for ever are taken away, we will never be on our own. The Holy Spirit of God comes with power and with peace. That doesn't mean life suddenly becomes easy, but it does mean there is no part of life, however rubbish, we are abandoned to cope with alone.

The late Rachel Held Evans preached this text well. She wrote these words in the context of adults dealing with being abused by their parents but in the context of where we find ourselves if we are honest right now, they are words for all of us:

“You are not alone. You are not orphans. You have not been forgotten. That stubborn voice inside of you, that champions you, that is angry on your behalf, that calls you

beloved, that tells you not to give up — that is your Advocate, your Paraclete. Listen to him. Believe him. Obey him.

You have not been orphaned, not by the Spirit, and not by those in whom the Spirit has made a home.”

And her conclusion is the pastoral care Jesus gave his friends, and we all need I think, and that which we are charged to give to all who think they are left to fend for themselves is freely given.

“May all of us who feel vulnerable, for one reason or another, be reminded that we have an Advocate and Comforter, and that sometimes the hardest, most liberating thing to do is to listen, to obey, and to actually believe he’s in our corner.”

Go and write that paragraph out and stick it somewhere you see it every day. To know we are always loved and cared for, makes a huge difference. And believing it makes us cope when all around us is quite mad...

**God Bless,
Nik**

Nik on holiday

Please note that Nik is on holiday from last Wednesday (27th May) to Wednesday 3rd June. Please refer pastoral issues to the stewards.

We hope that Nik experiences many blessings during her time off and we continue to hold her in our prayers.

PMC Church Council

The PMC Church Council which was planned for 8th June will **not** now take place. Instead, we are hoping to circulate the usual reports to Church Council members for written feedback and comments. We will then hope to keep everyone informed of any relevant developments. ***The Church Stewards***

Rev Mark Slaney will be leading a service of worship
at 11.am on Sunday on his YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqMz31V_plsq89v_KXAAICw

Live-streamed services can be found on the Methodist Church website:
methodist.org.uk

On Sunday at 10.45am there is a service
from St David's Cathedral on BBC1 followed by Reflections at the Quay

Continued

Sundays at 7.00pm. We are reminded that Scottish Church leaders encourage us to continue to light a candle in a window and offer a prayer on Sunday evening.

The prayer for this coming Sunday is as follows:

Though we are moving into the first stages of the easing of lockdown, we continue to be painfully aware that there's a long way to go and that what lies at the end of it all remains unclear.

And so we proceed in faith, believing that God always goes before us and knows the end from the beginning.

On this Day of Pentecost we give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit, believing that it is by the Spirit that God guides us.

We pray:

Almighty God, by your Spirit, you brought order from chaos. By your brooding Spirit, hovering over the void, you spoke and there was ... something rather than nothing.

Create and recreate in and through us, we pray.

Almighty God, by your Spirit, you equipped and gifted and led our ancestors to know you and to serve you and to glorify you.

Continue to equip and enable us, we pray.

And then, Almighty God, as promised by the prophets and as never before, you poured out your Spirit on these first believers - on men and women, on the old and the young; and they were transformed and made alive, as dry bones brought to life.

Pour out your Spirit on us, we pray.

Almighty God, in these turbulent and uncertain times, send us the Comforter, that we might know you to be near. Grant us your healing touch and help us to know the rest that comes from resting in you.

For the loving touch of your Spirit, we pray.

Almighty God, by what seemed as a rushing wind and as tongues of fire you brought your Church to life. Come to your Church now, we pray, that by the same Spirit we might be renewed and refreshed and remade and revived.

Yes, Lord, grant us a fresh outpouring of your Spirit, we pray.

Renew them in heart and soul, and mind and strength,

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Living God, renew us we pray and renew the life of the world.

For you so loved the world that you gave your Son

That we might share in the life of the world to come.

Hear our prayer, now and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This **Messages and Info sheet** is currently being produced by Gerald,
please send items for inclusion to him by 12 midday on Thursday each week.

His details are in the church directory.