

# PERTH METHODIST CHURCH

## MESSAGES AND INFO

### FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

Our usual news-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.

The last Sunday of the church's year was this week. This coming week we will be celebrating the first Sunday in Advent, although, sadly, we will still not be in the church in person.

So, we bring the year to a close by focussing our thoughts on Jesus Christ - and his reign as King over all creation. However, as we see from our Scripture (**Matthew Ch25 vs 31-46**) our King is not removed from us, his people. Instead, we are celebrating a King who is very much one for being alongside his people rather than staying apart and separated from them.

For us, his followers in this day and age, the lesson is quite clear. If we want to be true to our King, then we must look to what he did in his life and do our best to emulate that. To help us think through what that might be we could do no better than turn to Our calling as Methodists. The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission

It does this through:

**Worship** - The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

**Learning and Caring** - The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care

**Service** - The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

**Evangelism** - The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ

When you read through these you can see that they are a great blueprint for any church, and they follow closely the life and work of Jesus Christ himself

In the passage we read it in simple terms - feed the hungry, give the thirsty something to drink, be with the lonely, clothe those without proper clothing, care for the sick and visit those in prison. All actions that are within our gift to fulfil.

The common thread running through them all is to be with people. In other words, give of your time to help others. Be present with them. This message is all the more important at this time of pandemic. Although we can't be there in person because of regulations, we can be there by phone, or card or by gifts of food. The important thing is to let people know that we are thinking about them.

But, be careful, in the passage Jesus warns that these things should not be done in order to be recognised and rewarded. They should be done because you recognise the need and respond to it. When Jesus is telling the parable, he makes it clear that if help is only given to get recognition, it is no real help at all.

Words that often stir me are these ones of Teresa of Avila. She said:

*'Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on the world; yours are the feet with which he walks to do good; yours are the hands with which he blesses the world'*

Ponder on the Scripture passage for a while as you consider your own engagement with the mission of the church. The more who 'follow the footsteps' of Christ the better. It helps change society and it helps to draw others into the Kingdom.

There is another important aspect to this passage, and it is something that we are less keen to think about. This passage is quite plainly also about judgement. Not a popular idea.

However, it does say quite plainly that God will judge us when we stand before him. The judgement will not be based on our wealth, our popularity, our awards gained etc as tends to be the way in human life. The judgement will be based on the good we have offered to others. Jesus tells us that when we offer aid of any kind to others it is as if we were offering it to him.

It really is as simple as that it is as if Jesus is saying "be kind and generous with your time, your goods, your hospitality and I will accept that you have offered it to me. However, if you do it because you are trying to impress me, then you will fail."

We have reached the end of another church year. It has been a very different year because of the Covid pandemic. A time that has brought many challenges and many sadnesses. However, it has been a year where we have been impressed by many acts of kindness done by many selfless people. People who grasped the importance of 'presence' in order to help those who were perhaps struggling. As we go forward towards a new year in the life of our church - exciting year with a new ministry—let us ponder on how we might take the Message of Our calling forward in our daily and congregational life. To do that successfully you must be familiar with the life and work of Jesus. So, as we enter a new year in the life of the church, why not decide to be more diligent in reading Scripture!

### **Prayer**

Holy One, enthroned in glory over all creation,  
you are the shepherd to the lost and the least.

Teach us to see your face among the poor -  
feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty,  
welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked,  
and visiting those who are sick or in prison -  
so that we may share in your eternal realm  
through Jesus Christ, who is coming indeed,  
to reign with justice, compassion and love.

Amen

### **Worship, this Sunday, 29th November**

This week's service, will be on the Angus Dundee and Perthshire YouTube channel from 9am Sunday. To access the service or any of the earlier services go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and where it says 'Search' enter 'Angus, Dundee and Perthshire Methodist Circuit'.

If you know of anyone who doesn't have access to YouTube and would like the service on DVD or a full script, please let Nick Wooller or Sue Marshall-Jennings [smj4409@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:smj4409@hotmail.co.uk) know, so it can be posted to them each week.

### **Solas Festival Winter Event** is coming to you on **Sunday 29th November**.

Join us at the virtual fireside for a day of conversation, music, poetry, and song.

Go to [solasfestival.co.uk](https://solasfestival.co.uk)

Two messages from **Action for Children:-**

**Secret Santa is back** This festive season, Action for Children is looking for a sleighful of Secret Santas to support their Christmas campaign.

To become a Secret Santa please visit [iamsanta.org.uk/methodist](https://iamsanta.org.uk/methodist)

**Starry Night** - virtual Christmas Carol Event. On Tuesday 8th December, join us and families across the UK for an evening of Christmas carols, fun and festive cheer hosted by Channel 4 News' Jon Snow. Tickets are £10 per household and will give you access to exclusive entertainment, readings and performances from celebrities. All this from the comfort of your own home  
Buy tickets here [www.starry-night.co.uk](http://www.starry-night.co.uk)



It has been our custom to have a dedicated annual Sunday for AfC with a special collection. We can't do that this year, but the need is still there. AfC has managed to keep 99% of their children's support services open, thanks to the generosity of people like you.

If you feel able to help please send a cheque, made out to Perth Methodist Church, to Yvonne Clarkson by **Dec 13th**. (Contact details in the directory) She will then send one cheque to AfC.

If you can gift aid your donation either print and use the slip below, or contact Chris Parkin or Pam Bostock for an official gift aid envelope.

Thank you for your support.

Chris Parkin, AfC Secretary

I enclose my donation of £.....

Name

Home address

Postcode

*I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and /or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand that Action for Children will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give*

Signed

Date

**Sundays at 7.00pm.** Scottish Church leaders encourage us to keep on lighting a candle in a window and offer a prayer on Sunday evening.

Unfortunately, the prayer has not arrived in time for inclusion in 'Messages & Info'.

It should appear in due course on the synod website ([methodistchurchinscotland.net](http://methodistchurchinscotland.net))

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