

PERTH METHODIST CHURCH

MESSAGES AND INFO

FRIDAY 30TH APRIL

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.

Nik Wooller's Manse Musings

If you have seen nothing but the news reports from India, I'm sure you'll agree that there's been more than enough suffering and brokenness to go around this week. It's easy to wonder where God is in the midst of such disaster, sickness and seeming injustice, and why we humans have such a hard time loving one another, and sharing resources fairly. "How long, O Lord, how long?" we may be tempted to lament.

Fortunately, both this week's gospel and epistle lessons provide an opportunity to focus on the source of all life, hope, and healing—God as revealed in our Lord Jesus Christ. In the gospel lesson, Jesus is preparing his closest followers for his impending humiliation and death at the hands of an unjust political and social system. They have a tough time hearing and accepting this message because it is simply not part of their worldview of what ought to be happening. One might wonder how they heard all of this talk of abiding and branches bearing fruit. Was it an easily dismissed "duh" moment or perhaps a head-scratching nanosecond of confusion?

However those early followers may have heard and experienced Jesus' words, we today can see them for the radical, challenging, and inclusive message they bear. This is no sugar-coated dream-o-rama do-it-yourself imagery, but rather a communal mandate for how we as disciples are called to live, bearing fruit and thriving in the vineyard of this world.

And it's all about the love. Not a saccharine-sweet pop song love, but the radical death-defying love of Jesus the saviour of this world. It's not about earning or deserving love either. It's about a love so amazing and so limitless that it continues to pour forth in bread and wine, Word and water, and Spirit-wind. Love is, in fact, the very nature and essence of God, and we are only able to love because God first loved us.

In a world so broken and bruised, this love of God made real in Jesus and extended to us is the only antidote to death and darkness. Indeed, we are commanded to love our brothers and sisters and to constantly draw a wider and more inclusive circle in which Christ's healing love may be found. No one ever claimed this divine love business would be easy, but we have the promise that in loving one another God lives in us and God's love is perfected in us. Sounds awfully much like a recipe for a better world.

So even as anger festers and tempers flare, and families mourn the loss of life in India, we individually and in community must choose to abide in God, to be connected to the source of love and life. For it is only in this vital abiding in Christ that we bear the fruits of love, kindness, mercy, and hope. In the face of any pain and suffering the world may dish out, by the grace of God we are equipped and empowered to love: One small act at a time, one person at a time, one moment at a time.

Nik

Sunday in-person worship

This has been in place now for the past four Sundays. Everything has gone smoothly and there has been a joyful sense of being together again to worship God. Compliance with Covid regulations has been observed. Everyone is welcome.

Here is the PMC Plan for May:

	Preacher	Pianist	A/V desk
2nd May	Judy Jarvis	Sheila Anderson	Alan
9th May	Beryl Cowling/Jennie Whittle	Christine Aston	Sheila L
16th May	Gerald Bostock	Judy Jarvis	Sheila L
23rd May	Rev Alan Anderson	Sheila Anderson	Sheila L
30th May	Rev Nik Wooller	Judy Jarvis	Marcus

And Bill and Brenda have kindly offered to be the stewards on duty again each week.

Circuit Worship. This Sunday's circuit service will be on the 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 tell Nick Wooller or Sue Marshall-Jennings smj4409@hotmail.co.uk so it can be posted to them each week.

To all key holders

We have put a padlock on the gate. This is a temporary measure in an attempt to stop the dog-fouling in the garden area and also to discourage people from congregating there.

During this time entrance will be through the front door. But when any group is meeting within the premises the gate will be unlocked to comply with fire regulations.

The code for the combination lock is to be found in the vestry drawer.

"All We Can" Fundraising - Recipe Book. Thank you to everyone who sent recipes. We are still needing more! Please help! The closing date is 30th April. Thank you.

Alison Reid

Revd Nick Baker suggests we draw your attention to the report of recent **Scottish churches research**. He says we might ask ourselves what this means for the Perth church, the Circuit, ecumenical partners and the communities in which we serve. The report is called '**Adapt and be flexible – the mission doesn't stop**' and draws on the experience of the Scottish Church during the pandemic. Page 2 is the executive summary, pages 41-43 summarise the key findings and recommendations:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Wt4aFqtVXQxjx5KHTiUHIR5-thFHD1kf/view>

General Church Meeting

Please remember this is being held by Zoom on Monday 10th May at 7.30pm and every member and regular attender is invited. If you do not have access details please contact Sheila Lamont.

Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland are recruiting a part-time sessional chaplain for work-place ministry in Perth, for one year starting June 21. For more info or an application pack, contact Paul Wilson, Lead Chaplain paul.wilson@wpcscotland.co.uk

St Matthews are holding an on line **Quiz Night on Friday 14th May at 7 pm**, in aid of Christian Aid..Enter in teams or individually. If you are a single player you will be assigned to a team. To enter contact Jean Young on [jy2@btinternet.com](mailto: jy2@btinternet.com)

Renew Well-Being Movement

This is a “no strings attached” invitation to join an open meeting (via ZOOM) for interested people in churches in the Perth area on Wednesday 12th May at 7pm. The meeting is to explore the possibility of opening a Renew Wellbeing Café in Perth city centre. The meeting will be hosted by Ruth Rice who set up and who runs the Renew Wellbeing Movement. If you are interested in attending this meeting, Pam can provide details re access and more info about the movement.

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:

God whose name is Love, We see your love revealed
In the giving of your Son.

May we embrace the offer of your love
And live in response to your generosity.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

God whose name is Love, We see your love revealed
In the One who shares in our humanity and who suffers on our behalf.

May we live as those who share in a common humanity
And in the suffering of the world.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

God whose name is Love, We see your love revealed
In the community of your people and in all who are made in your image.

May we share in the life of your people
And recognise your image in the life of others.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

God whose name is Love, We see your love revealed among us
In the places where love is known and fear is cast out.

May fear be cast out and love be known
In the community we share and in the spaces we shape.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

God whose name is Love, We see your love revealed among us
In the resurrection of your Son and in the promise of your Spirit.

May we live as those who share in the hope of the resurrection
And in the life of your Spirit.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

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)