

PERTH METHODIST CHURCH MESSAGES AND INFO

FRIDAY 11TH JUNE

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

This is a great time of year for spending time tending the garden and enjoying its beauty. Also, a time when the garden needs almost constant attention from the mowing of the grass to the weeding and the watering of the plants and vegetables. There is nothing more satisfying than looking out and seeing all your hard work paying off! Seeing plants grow and develop from small seeds to beautiful flowers or producing tasty fruit and vegetables is very satisfying indeed. (Or at least that is what I'm told!!)

Jesus often talked about plants and trees in His parables, he could have talked about other things such as carpentry or fishing or some other interest. Gardening and nature imagery though is useful for talking about growth, renewal, and development. We have two such parables used by Jesus in our reading for this week from Mark 4: 26 – 34.

Jesus continues to speak to a large crowd by the Sea of Galilee and continues after the parable of the Sower and the lamp on a stand to talk about both the parable of the growing seed and the parable of the mustard seed. I shall deal with each in turn. Firstly, we come to the parable of the growing seed, which is unique to Mark's gospel alone and focuses on the mysterious power of the seed to grow and germinate into a living plant. It talks of how the person who planted the seed goes about their daily business and whilst this is happening the seed sprouts and grows. The key to this is planting the seed in suitable soil to ensure that the seed has the best possible chance of growing in the first place. So, what is the point of the parable, well like the seed, which grows and develops, firstly under the earth, which is unseen and hidden, so the kingdom of God is. Then one day, like the plant popping through the earth, the kingdom of God will manifest itself in glory and be seen by all.

The parable of the mustard seed is more familiar to us all and talks of how such a little seed can turn into such great a plant. The text tells us the mustard seed is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, this is not actually true, the seed of the black orchid is smaller, but Jesus is not giving a lesson here on botany rather He is saying that its just an incredibly small seed which it is. However, the mustard seed, would have been the smallest seed that His audience would have been familiar with. The plant itself grows into a huge treelike shrub and some commentators have noted that they can grow some ten feet tall so certainly a large plant!

The purpose of the parable is to demonstrate how the kingdom of God started off small and weak but one day will become strong and powerful. We know from history how the church has grown and developed over the centuries and how it continues to grow and develop. Now though, due to the pandemic and various other factors, such as losing some beloved and long-standing members, our Circuit, seems to be going through a difficult time, as are many other churches, but we should not be discouraged because as these parables indicate the kingdom will continue to grow.

As churches though, we need to be planted and rooted in the 'right soil' our foundation needs to be in Christ and we need to be tended by the Holy Spirit, our guide. Let us draw inspiration from Christ, His Word and His Spirit as we seek to renew ourselves and our church communities, for only there we will see fresh growth, fruit and life in all our churches across the circuit.

Let us work for reconciliation and peace no matter how difficult and tedious that work becomes. . **Nik**

Sunday in-person worship This is in place now and there has been a joyful sense of being together again to worship God. Compliance with Covid regulations is observed. Everyone is welcome.

The Service for this Sunday 13th June is a Communion Service led by Revd Nik Wooller.

Next week our planned service will be the pre-recorded circuit service. We will use parts of this together with some live input from members of the congregation. And, just in case you don't know, we are singing hymns again but from behind our masks!

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 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.

Revd Nik Wooller is on holiday from 17th - 28th June. We wish her a pleasant and relaxing time and many happy reunions with family and friends.

Should you require a minister up until 24th June, please contact Revd Nick Baker.

The Circuit plan June-August

This is now available and has been sent electronically to members of Church Council. Please would others wishing to receive it by email ask me for it.

There will be a few copies available at church for those who are not on email. Gerald.

New lists of Door stewards and Readers

It will be helpful to share these duties around again and we need to know who are currently available and willing to serve in this way.

If you are willing to be a door steward please inform Brenda and if you are willing to be a reader (reading the Bible passage(s) during a service) please inform Beryl. Their contact details are in the church directory.

It would also be helpful to the stewards if we could have two or three volunteers who would contact a reader from the list each week, invite them to read and pass on the passage to them.

This is a task that could be done from home by someone who is still keen to do their bit for the church and would find it a helpful way of keeping in touch. It could be done, say, for a month at a time and thus shared round among the volunteers. Again, please tell Beryl if you are willing to be a volunteer organiser of readers.

Calling all those who have Smartie tubes of 20p coins for our All We Can project!

You are invited to bring these to church any Sunday from now onwards and hand them to Fiona or Alan (Treasurer). A sizeable amount has already been paid into the account and we thank all who have supported this initiative.

The promised Recipe Book will be available very soon now. It is currently on its way to the printer!! Details of the Summer Event on the North Inch will be shared as soon as we are confident that the Covid situation is sufficiently under control.

Fiona (on behalf of the Church Life Group)

Action for Children

Would all lantern box holders please bring your box into church during June. Leave them with a steward if I am not present. The boxes have not been collected and counted since 2019 so Barry will bring a wheelbarrow to cope with the extra weight 😊. If you prefer us to collect your box please let me know so I can arrange to pick it up. Thank You.

Chris Parkin, (contact details in the directory)

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.

Sunday evening worship

We are planning to resume evening worship at 6.00pm on Sundays, commencing **June 27th** and continuing until at least August 29th.

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:

Everlasting God, Whose way is known to those who live by faith,

Grant us that we might walk by faith

And so live for you That our lives reflect the glory of God.

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

Everlasting God, Whose way is known to those who live by faith,

Grant us the assurance that, as we walk by faith, We are not alone

And that we walk in the company of your Son.

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

Everlasting God, Whose way is known to those who live by faith,

Grant us the knowledge That we walk in the company of your people

And in the community of your Spirit.

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

Everlasting God, Whose way is known to those who live by faith,

Grant us that we might see The complexity of this world

Through eyes enlightened by faith.

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

Everlasting God, Whose way is known to those who live by faith,

Grant us to see, by faith, The image of God

In each life shaped by your hand.

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

Everlasting God, Whose way is known to those who live by faith,

Grant us that, at the last, We will come into your presence

And share in the life everlasting.

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

The 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)