

**St. Margaret's Community Church of  
Scotland**

**Dunfermline**

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### **3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 Newsletter**

Dear All,

Life has its turning points – those moments that either changed history or at a personal level, the direction of our lives. The landings on the beaches at Normandy were the turning point in WW2. Perhaps meeting someone for the first time, knowing you loved them and eventually getting married was a turning point for many of us. Was it the job we got when we left school? Think for a moment – I can think of at least three or four significant people or events, but that would all take too long to recount.

We have been reading through the book of Acts – many of you following the daily readings on Facebook – and on Sunday coming we arrive at Acts chapter 10. This is a remarkable turning point for the whole world!! Yes, it is as remarkable as that!

Up until this point, the early Jewish converts did not refer to themselves as Christians – they were Jews who believed that Jesus was the Messiah. They thought that Jesus had come just for the Jews. In Acts 10 a Gentile [non-Jewish person; everyone who was not a Jew was referred to as a Gentile and often not very respectfully] called Cornelius had a vision and this senior Roman officer was tasked with getting Peter to come and explain the Gospel. The rest is history – Peter comes, Cornelius believes and begins to follow Jesus and Peter realises that the original command to go into the whole world and share the Good News was imperative.

It was the turning point. It was the moment when Peter realised that Jesus was for everyone and not just the Jews.

Many people down through the years have come to the conclusion that Jesus was for them – it might have happened in Sunday School, Church, an Evangelistic Crusade, in the privacy of the own home. They had a moment when their lives changed course.

Our country is beginning to come out of lockdown, and sooner than we were told or imagined, we will be able to gather together to worship. But things have changed. A recent Yougov poll indicated that only 6% of people wanted things to go back to as they were. Have we reached a turning point? For the better? Will this be a turning point too for us as a Church?

I wonder if looking into the potential face of death for young, middle aged and older will have changed how people view life? Our view that science conquers all has been debunked and maybe there will be an awakening of a deeper spiritual need? Let's pray about that!

Will our society see that there are things more important than money, possessions and celebrity? Will we turn away from the shallow materialism and seek something deeper and more meaningful? Let's pray about that.

Is this a turning point too for us as a Church? We have been scornful of using technology and yet it has become a friend and a good tool throughout this period. Is God encouraging us to embrace it and use it for good? Let's pray about that too!

Blessing to you all,

**Iain**

## Intimations

Although the Scottish Government has given permission for the Church to open for private prayer, this is not something we will be pursuing.

Zoom services on Wednesday at 7pm and Sunday from 10.45 beginning at 11am.

Daily Bible Readings in Acts on Facebook and a Facebook thought for Sunday.

Years ago, a young mother was making her way across the hills of South Wales, carrying her tiny baby in her arms, when she was overtaken by a blinding blizzard. She never reached her destination and when the blizzard had subsided her body was found by searchers beneath a mound of snow. But they discovered that before her death, she had taken off all her outer clothing and wrapped it about her baby. When they unwrapped the child, to their great surprise and joy, they found he was alive and well. She had mounded her body over his and given her life for her child, proving the depths of her mother love. Years later that child, David Lloyd George, grown to manhood, became prime minister of Great Britain, and, without doubt, one of Britain's greatest statesmen.

Money will buy a bed but not sleep; books but not brains; food but not appetite; finery but not beauty; a house but not a home; medicine but not health; "luxuries but not culture; amusements but not happiness; religion but not salvation; a passport to everywhere but heaven.

The following series of advertisements appeared in a daily newspaper:

Monday: "The Rev. A.J. Jones has one colour TV set for sale. Telephone 626-1313 after 7 p.m. and ask for Mrs. Donnelley who lives with him, cheap."

Tuesday: "We regret any embarrassment caused to Rev. Jones by a typographical error in yesterday's paper. The ad should have read: 'The Rev. A.J. Jones has one colour TV set for sale, cheap...Telephone 626-1313 and ask for Mrs. Donnelley, who lives with him after 7 p.m.'"

Wednesday: "The Rev. A.J. Jones informs us that he has received several annoying telephone calls because of an incorrect ad in yesterday's paper. It should have read: 'The Rev. A.J. Jones has one colour TV set for sale, cheap. Telephone 626-1313 after 7 p.m. and ask for Mrs. Donnelley who loves with him.'"

Thursday: "Please take notice that I, the Rev. A.J. Jones, have no colour TV set for sale; I have smashed it. Don't call 626-1313 anymore. I have not been carrying on with Mrs. Donnelley. She was, until yesterday, my housekeeper."

Friday: "Wanted: a housekeeper. Usual housekeeping duties. Good pay. Love in, Rev. A.J. Jones. Telephone 626-1313." !!!!

"I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world" - Mother Teresa

"Many people today have been spurred to search for meaning because they are haunted by having too much to live with and too little to live for" – Os Guinness