

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

Dunfermline

Iain Greenshields, Tel: 07427477575

Email: revimaclg@hotmail.co.uk

14th August 2020 Newsletter

Aberdeen FC have hit the headlines for all the wrong reasons [apologies to Ian Telfer, an avid Dons Fan]. Through the irresponsible actions of a few of their players, members of staff caught the dreaded virus and therefore put people at risk – not to mention having to cancel their game at the weekend.

This is just an example of irresponsible behaviour. In listening to the opinions of some younger people [those 30 and under], they seem to feel that even if they get the virus by going out and breaking all the social distancing rules, they are not in the substantial at risk category. How utterly foolish and comprehensively selfish! Do they not realise they can carry the virus to those more at risk? Parents, grandparents, neighbours and others?

Responsibility is something that lies at the heart of the Gospel. Think about it. We as human beings have acted irresponsibly – we have broken faith with God and his commandments. We can pretend to ourselves that we are better than we are, but in God's sight we have fallen far short of what we could and should have been. Into this situation comes God. Incredibly, he takes responsibility for our irresponsible [sinful] behaviour. He dies on the Cross to pay the price of our irresponsibility in order to put things right between us and him.

The Christian Faith calls this **grace**. Grace is where God, who could have chosen otherwise, chose instead to offer us a chance to put things right.

Not in the sense of us being able to do things that please him. This is how God does it – Jesus dies for our sins – this is God taking responsibility for all of our wrongdoing. God then comes to us in the Gospel, points us to the Cross, and invites us to believe [trust, hope, put our faith in] in Jesus and on the basis of this incredibly gracious offer, personally receive the gift of the forgiveness of our sins. This is our responsibility – to accept God's gracious offer and become right with him forever.

We are called to become responsible followers of Jesus from this point. What does that mean? It means that the rest of our lives becomes a **response** to the wonderful grace of God. How does that work?

We are members of God's Family, Citizens of the Kingdom of God. It is our responsibility to live life differently under the leadership of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is our responsibility to tell the world about the incredible grace and forgiveness of God in Jesus. It is our responsibility to witness to the difference that the Cross and Resurrection can bring into a person's life. It is our responsibility to be the gracious and loving people who show a different and better way to our lost and sadly godless world.

It is our responsibility to live in harmony with one another and do nothing that will allow our world to point the finger at us and accuse us of hypocrisy. It is our responsibility to be living examples of grace and forgiveness – to be a reminder to each other and our world of what the Gospel is all about!

It is our responsibility in times like these to be model citizens who obviously are living in such a way that we do everything we can to care for others.

Iain

Intimations

If things continue as they are we will be back in church on 30th August. We will be limited to the number of people who can attend – no more than 50.

Is it safe for you to attend? Along with the Newsletter next week, there will be a risk assessment form sent out and this will help you to make your decision.

How will this work? There will be a “booking line” you can phone. Obviously if more than 50 people apply, it has to be worked on a first come basis.

Masks will have to be worn and you will be invited to use hand gel before and after the service. The two metre rule will have to be complied with.

For those who cannot come? We will still run “Zoom” so that you can be at the service if you wish. We will also live-stream the service through Facebook. The Newsletter too will continue every week.

What is the point for standing up for rights in a world where few stand up for responsibilities – Dallas Willard

Look at the word responsibility – “response-ability” – the ability to choose your response – Stephen Covey

I learned from my parents not just to do my best and to work hard but to treat everyone equally, to respect others, to tell the truth, to take responsibility. I learned from my mother and father that for every opportunity there was an obligation, for every demand a duty, for every chance given, a contribution to be made – Gordon Brown MP

Cripple him, and you have a Sir Walter Scott. Lock him in a prison cell, and you have a John Bunyan. Bury him in the snows of Valley Forge, and you have a George Washington. Raise him in abject poverty and you have an Abraham Lincoln. Strike him down with infantile paralysis, and he becomes Franklin Roosevelt. Burn him so severely that the doctors say he’ll never walk again, and you have a Glenn Cunningham – who set the world’s one mile record in 1934. Deafen him and you have a Ludwig van Beethoven. Have him or her born black in a society filled with racial discrimination, and you have a Booker T. Washington, a Marian Anderson, a George Washington Carver. Call him a slow learner, “retarded,” and write him off as uneducable, and you have an Albert Einstein. As one man summed it up: Life is about 20% in what happens to us and 80% in the way we respond to the events – Ted Engstrom

It is difficult to say which is more apt a description of our age; the ‘me’ generation – which describes our self-centredness; or the ‘blame’ generation – that shrinks from personal responsibility and attaches fault to anything and anyone but themselves – R. T. Kendall

We have to do the best we can. This is our sacred human responsibility – Albert Einstein

The reason people blame things on the previous generations is that there’s only one other choice – Douglas Larson,
