

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

**Dunfermline**

**Iain Greenshields, Tel: 07427477575**

**Email: [revimaclg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:revimaclg@hotmail.co.uk)**

## **28<sup>th</sup> August 2020 Newsletter**

On Friday evening I took time out to watch the UEFA cup final between Inter Milan and Sevilla because it promised to be a good game of football – as a Partick Thistle supporter I don't often get the opportunity to watch a good game of football!!

Some of the best players in Europe were on display but there was one disappointing feature that ran right through the game – cheating. Sevilla players were falling over in apparent agony having never been touched and conning the referee – it completely spoiled the game.

What has this got to do with anything in life that matters? Paul speaks about the Christian as someone who runs a race – see Philippians 3 verses 13&14. Why did he use this illustration? I believe it is because in the life of faith there are rules which govern the race of life – God's rules.

We are all part of a Body of People. The rule that governs a healthy body is for us to support and encourage one another and do nothing that would undermine the Church. Our role as part of the Body is to be co-operative and to stimulate one another on to excellence and godliness.

Forgiveness is another vital area of playing the game of the life of faith. There can be no place for bitterness and an unforgiving spirit in the Church – that is quite simply not playing the "game" according to the rules that the Lord has set down for a healthy Body.

Love is the essence of life in the Body of Christ. Everything that Jesus has done for us has been done from a heart of love. Here is the challenging question for all of us? Do we strive with all of our energy and heart to love one another – even when we find that difficult? If not, then we are not playing according to the rules of faith. I would go as far as to say that we are not even in the game at all!

Think about the human body for a moment. Have you had to watch someone you either know or love battle against cancer? It is an awesome thing to witness and too often the battle ends in failure.

What is cancer? In simplistic terms it is when good cells go rogue and instead of working for the health of the body, they begin to work, often aggressively, against the body and we all know the final outcome if these cells are not destroyed!

In a similar way, in the Body of Christ, we are called to work together for the good and progress of each other. We are called to show kindness, grace, forgiveness, mercy, encouragement and love. If we behave in opposite ways from these we become like cancer within the body.

Back to the game. The game was spoiled by players who refused to play according to the rules and diminished what should have been a good occasion. Each one of us is called to make a positive contribution to the Body of Christ – to play according to God's rules by imitating His Son. To do this offers a wholesome spectacle to the world and is truly invigorating. To be less than this is to be sub-Christian. God help us to be the very best version of ourselves that we can be.

**Iain**

## Intimations

We will be holding a service in Church this Sunday for the first time in nearly 6 months. You will have had the literature sent to you for guidance about preparing for and attending worship.

The service at 11am will also be livestreamed on the church Facebook page – the livestream can be picked up later even if we miss it.

The service will also be “Zoomed” as usual so that the people on Zoom can join in the service.

This is all as it is hoped will be the case! Please pray for the Minister as he tries to figure all this out!!

The service on Sunday will be based on Genesis 13.

There will be readings throughout the week on Facebook as usual and a Zoom service on Wednesday.

Let's stop and consider what unresolved and unloving church disputes cost the Body of Christ:

We lose our impact in the world. We have no power. Our interior strength is gone. Our essential purpose is spent.

We grieve the heart of the Father. Unfortunately, some people see grieving the heart of the Father as a small price to pay in order to get their own way in a church fight.

We make it nearly impossible for our children to love the local church of God. We put spiritual obstacles in the way of our children.

We give a portion of our lives over to the influence of evil - Robert MoellerIt is

clear in the Scriptures that the church cannot continue on the path to be what it is called to be without continuing to grow in community or common unity. This is about people growing closer together, loving each other, preferring one another, doing all things to build up one another, and even laying down their lives for one another just as our King laid down His life for us. The greatest reflection of the kingdom of God will always be people loving each other. As John wrote, we love one another because He loved us, and He loves our brothers and sisters; so we too will love them and serve them as unto the Lord.

Such a community will be in increasing contrast to the "communities" of this world, which will be losing all basis for unity, and sliding into increasing division and conflict. The kingdom, the community of the King's people, will be going in the opposite direction, not becoming more fearful, but more faithful, not becoming more self-centered, but more selfless, not more depressed, but in fact, the happiest people on the planet. There is no joy like the joy of the Lord, and there is no strength like that which comes from His joy – Rick Joyner

Quit griping about your church. If it was perfect, you couldn't belong – Anon

Christ loves to live in a house, which is built according to his own plans, and not according to the whims and fancies of men – C.H. Spurgeon

We do not want, as the newspapers say, a Church that will move with the world. What we want is a Church that will move the world – G. K. Chesterton