

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

Dunfermline

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18thSeptember 2020 Newsletter

Jim Packer in his wonderful book called "Rediscovering Holiness" tells the following story about fear and resilience.

Poor Rocky. He has lost his nerve. You might think from his name that Rocky is a strong man. But no; he is a small black dog, a little shaggy and very friendly. My son brought him home from school when he was about four inches long!

In a manner very reminiscent of Christopher Robin's Pooh Bear, he is a dog of very little brain. Not that we hold that against him – it is a simple fact. He was a spirited small creature until the time when he walked on water or, more precisely, failed to walk on water. But then his morale collapsed and he has run scared of water ever since. Poor Rocky.

You see, he was chasing a bird and his head was in the air. He did not see the edge of the bridge over the lake and he ran full tilt over the bridge. For a moment his legs went wild, then like Piglet, he found himself entirely surrounded by water and scrambled out shaken.

Now he thinks of water as perilous stuff. He hates getting a bath. When a storm rages and the sound of rain hits the windows in the house he runs and hides. When he is in the car and it rains, he whimpers like a soul in torment. It is clear that his nerve has gone.

Courage calls for conquering fear despite our feelings. Again and again, god tells us through the Bible not to be afraid.

But what do we do when we "feel" afraid, like poor Rocky? Fear is something that has got to be faced and overcome. What are some of our greatest fears?

I have just finished reading about Mother Teresa, who for the last 50 years of her life felt as if God had abandoned her. What a terrible fear to carry, and for so long!! How do we overcome a fear like that? We have to speak truth to our minds. What is the truth? God tells us that we are completely forgiven and loved and no matter what happens he will never leave us or forsake us – that is the truth and we need to speak it to ourselves often, especially when we feel the opposite.

Do we fear death? Many do. They fear not the process of dying but the outcome. What will happen to us when we die? Is there life after death? Is there hope for me? Will I go to heaven?

The answer to the above fear is this – spoken by Jesus, "I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me shall live, even though their bodies will die, and whoever lives believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

He also said this in the same John's Gospel, "I assure you, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me, have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but have already passed from death to life."

Like poor wee Rocky, we all have our fears both about life and death. Jesus tells us not to be worried or afraid because he has overcome all things for us. We have to speak this truth to our minds over and over again and in so doing we will be at peace and find reassurance.

Iain

Intimations

Three Sundays ago we got back into Church and the move has been successful even with the limitations we have had to accept. The age range of those present has been from 90 to 13! If you want to come along to the service – lasting about 45 mins please contact Irene Cunningham – the number is 01383 731947.

The Church Service will be at 11am.

The Zoom service will continue for those who wish – a good number attended Zoom this week. The minister will hold the Zoom Service from 10.00am [beginning at 10.15].

Facebook will continue everyday of the week and we are working our way through Genesis and looking at the life of Abraham. There will be a Facebook Service pre-recorded every Sunday.

Harvest Thanksgiving

I think it is important that we have a times of Harvest Thanksgiving, especially under current circumstances. Normally we would do this on a Sunday but instead, this year, we are going to hold it on Saturday. This Saturday, 19th September, the church will be open from 10am till 4.30pm – you can bring your gift either of money or non perishable goods all which will help to support our local food trolley.

A LETTER

To: Jesus, Son of Joseph
Woodcrafter's Carpenter Shop
Nazareth 25922

From: Jordan Management Consultants

Dear Sir:

Thank you for submitting the resumes of the twelve men you have picked for managerial positions in your new organization. All of them have now taken our battery of tests; and we have not only run the results through our computer, but also arranged personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational aptitude consultant.

The profiles of all tests are included, and you will want to study each of them carefully. It is the staff opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking.

Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has absolutely no qualities of leadership. The two brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, place personal interest above company loyalty. Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale. We feel that it is our duty to tell you that Matthew had been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus definitely have radical leanings, and they both registered a high score on the manic-depressive scale.

One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind, and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious, and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right-hand man. All of the other profiles are self-explanatory.

Sincerely,

