

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

Dunfermline

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Last weekend my car was written off in an accident – thankfully none of us were in the car at the time and so the only damage done was material!

Being written off! It got me thinking – thinking about life and people. Is there anyone who is so broken that they cannot be fixed? Are there people beyond hope? Are there circumstances in life and relationships so broken that they cannot be fixed? Big questions – searching questions!

We might look at someone's current lives and circumstances and come to the conclusion that they are beyond hope. Is that fair? Humanly speaking what we are feeling about them might make sense. But surely God, in coming to us through Jesus Christ has indicated that he wants to heal broken people and that he has the ability to restore what is broken?

Jesus did not just heal broken bodies – he restored broken lives. How did He do this? First of all by convincing people that irrespective of where they were in life or what they had done, the grace and forgiveness of God was greater than their personal failures in life – one of the great examples of this was Mary Magdalene – a life completely turned round and utterly transformed by His Grace. Others too, like Mary, sensed that Jesus saw deeper than their personal failures and that His Love and grace was sufficient to herald a new beginning. When this was embraced and understood people began again.

But what of our past and the haunting reality for some that there are things that are so bad and horrible either done to them or by them? Jesus taught people that they were not to be defined by their past but by two things. The first is the love of the Father for them – a pure, perfect, unabusive, eternal and complete love that was *for* them. The second thing was that Jesus offered a complete break from the past – a new beginning – being born again. Born into a new world [the Kingdom of God] and a new reality.

But what of these times when it is we who have failed – we mess up big time in our marriage, being a parent, in our work life, in our church life, as a friend, morally, spiritually – what of when we either break ourselves or other people by our actions or words?

I have often, over the last 36 years as a pastor, had to sit with people in their homes or the church office and say this to them, “there is nothing so broken that, with your will and God's help, cannot be fixed.” That is not some kind of mantra – I firmly believe it and I do so from my own experience as a husband, a father, a minister and a person/Christian who sadly has failed more often than I would have liked.

God does not give up on us – ever! Why then should we give up on someone else or ourselves. God is willing to forgive always – why is it impossible for us to forgive others and ourselves? Sure, it is not easy and it is hard, hard going sometimes, but the good things in life that are right seldom come without effort and commitment. So let me close again with these words, “there is nothing so broken that, with your will and God's help, it cannot be fixed.”

Iain

Intimations

Ross Kerr is looking for articles for the Church Magazine – if there is anything you feel would be helpful/informative please contact Ross on 01383 726663, email him on rosskerr@me.com or send it to 75 Scotland Drive, KY12 7TW.

Services

Daily readings in John's Gospel on Facebook.

Zoom on Wednesday at 6.45pm

Facebook at 9am on Sunday

Zoom at 9.45am on Sunday

Church Service at 11am on Sunday and the service is livestreamed on YouTube – go to St. Margaret's Church of Scotland Dunfermline.

Coming to Worship

A number of people have expressed an opinion that the guidance that was sent out indicated that there was a prohibition on people of a certain age in coming to Church – this was by the Church of Scotland and only for guidance. Ultimately the decision about whether or not to come to Church is a personal one – if you want to come, can you please let Irene Cunningham know by phoning 01383 731947.

Church Opening up

The Government has given permission for certain groups to use Church premises, especially when there is either a critical personal or social need. In this respect there will be meetings of some groups and organisations in the building from the beginning of this week.

Just as a runner's endurance does not increase until they press past their previous limits, our faith does not grow until we are placed in conditions that require more faith than we have had before. Our love does not grow until we are placed in a situation where it requires more than we have had before. The same is true of our patience, our peace, and so on. For this reason, for as long as we remain on the path of life we can expect to be going through some trials that are helping us to grow. When we learn this, these trials do not become something to be avoided, but embraced as opportunities and the joy that James talked about. As Francis Frangipane has said, "We never fail one of God's tests—we just keep taking them until we pass - Rick Joyner

In 1924, two climbers were part of an expedition that set out to conquer Mount Everest. As far as is known, they never reached the summit; and they never returned. Somewhere on that gigantic mountain they were overpowered by the elements and died. After the failure of the expedition, the rest of the party returned home. Addressing a meeting in London, one of those who returned described the ill-fated adventure. He then turned to a huge photograph of Mount Everest, mounted on the wall behind him.

"Everest," he cried, "we tried to conquer you once, but you overpowered us. We tried to conquer you a second time, but again you were too much for us. But, Everest, I want you to know that we are going to conquer you, for you can't grow any bigger, and we can!"