

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

Dunfermline

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I always find Remembrance weekend and Sunday so very difficult. On the one hand it is only right that we should remember those brave souls who left our shores and never returned – in all conflicts. On the other hand I am always so saddened at the utter futility of war and why it exists and has to be used to settle scores and disputes!

War seems so central to who we are as human beings – for example the US has only been at peace 22 years out of its 239 year history and of recorded history over the last 7000 years it is reckoned that there has only been a very few hundred years without war in the world.

How are we to understand this? What is the reason for this desire in people to go to war and to wreak such havoc?

I suppose first of all we see that we are people who are in inner turmoil – we might even say that we are at war with ourselves. What do I mean by that? Think about the inner battles that go on in the minds and emotions of every human being – those inner battles between right and wrong! It is a constant feature of who we are.

Think then of our immediate relationships with family, friend and community. How easily do we become angry? It can be over any number of things – how easily do issues and people get under our skin? Out come those words of anger and those angry responses and that is just at home!

Then take that to the next level – community. How often is anger and even bitterness expressed over issues and beliefs and other people's actions? We so easily default to taking sides and go to the "barracades" – relationships lie in ruins all over the place because of hurt and anger and even misunderstanding. I have spoken with so many who will speak of settled anger – even settled hatred!

It is only therefore a further step up to the national and international level before we see the outworking of people's inability to get along and live together in harmony – we see that in Europe at the moment with all kinds of right and left wing intolerant factions gaining significant support in the most liberal of democracies.

And so we remember the cost and the pain and the grief of war and its consequences: But do we learn its lessons?

God is not at War – He, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit is at perfect peace and unity and the Son came to rescue his creation from its insanity. In Jesus, the Kingdom comes with the offer of forgiveness, new life and peace and indeed with the promise of an ultimate future when there will be nothing else but peace and harmony – but it begins now. It begins in the hearts, minds and actions of God's people as we consciously choose peace, forgiveness, reconciliation and harmony.

Are we allowing the Kingdom to break in upon our lives? Are we living examples of a better way? Does Remembrance for us mean that we look to the One on the Cross who gave His life to bring peace? Surely we choose His Way?

Iain

Intimations

Services will be at the normal times on Sunday – Facebook will go on at 9am, Zoom at 9.45 and the Main Service at 11am in the Church.

How does the new Tier System affect us? We are in Tier 2 in Fife and this does not change the services we can offer through the Church.

Zoom Service on Wednesday at 6.45pm

We had thought about having a Christmas Fayre but we consider that it will be too big a potential risk.

I am considering having a Christmas Concert on Zoom in December with home baking from the Church to be delivered to everyone “attending” so that we can enjoy a cuppa [maybe mulled wine] and something nice to eat during the interval – more of this soon.

Finally, the Executive are going to invite every member in December, if they are able, to make a Special Christmas Offering to the Church – I hope you will support this, even in a small way.

“Every one says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.”

— C. S. Lewis

“God created war so that Americans would learn geography.”

— Mark Twain

Don't give God instructions - just report for duty!

