

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

Dunfermline

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13th November 2020 Newsletter

When the prophet Jeremiah was speaking to Israel over 2500 years ago he was challenging them to think seriously about their relationship to and with God. Here is how he speaks for God:

“O Israel, my faithless people, come home to me again, for I am merciful. I will not be angry with you forever. Only acknowledge your guilt. Admit that you rebelled against the Lord your God and committed adultery by worshipping idols. Confess that you refused to follow me. Return home.”

What is that all about? It is seeing reality from God's perspective and not our own. You see, it is in the nature of people to “drift” – people do that in their marriage where their commitment to one another gets diluted by other “necessities” and “priorities”. People do this in all walks of life, where their life vision gets lost in the priorities we set for ourselves – money, social standing, material things, houses, cars – the list goes on.

Israel turned away from God to worship the “gods” of those around – which inevitably involved both the worship of money and sex. God calls them to return home. To return to a way of being and living that has different priorities. To challenge our moral thinking and not be subsumed by the moral relativism of our own culture. He calls us to be serious about our discipleship and by what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Here is the remedy he calls for us to adopt. First of all, “come home to me” – are we like the wayward son in the story Jesus told that has become lost and needs to return home? Be honest about where you are with God! This is hard stuff that requires honest thinking and response.

What next does God ask of us? Acknowledge your guilt. But there is a backdrop to this – He tells us that He is merciful, even in the face of our guilt – our wrong behaviour, our wrong thinking and emotions and priorities. Acknowledge them – get them out into the open before God.

The next thing God wants from us is to admit our sins. Have you ever stood frustrated with one of your children and they refuse to admit what you know they have done? That is so often the point at which we can go no further. Admitting our sins is cathartic if we know we are speaking to One who loves us, wants to forgive us and desires to restore us.

Confess. Someone said that confession is good for the soul. How right they were. It gets rid of the rubbish from our lives and is the beginning point of letting in the life of God.

Finally, God invites us to return to Him and Follow Him. Put into the New Testament context one might put it like this:

“My Cross is sufficient for your forgiveness. My Spirit for your repentance.”

In all seriousness we need to be real about where we are with God and realise that a merciful and loving Father is waiting for our return to Him and will always restore and forgive.

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 3 in Fife and this does not change the services we can offer through the Church.

Zoom Service on Wednesday at 6.45pm

Christmas Programme of Events

We will have the ongoing JAM stall in the Church until Christmas – this seems to be attracting continuous interest from members.

Community Christmas Tree outside of the Church as in previous years put up on Monday 7th December. Outside Christmas music and Hot Chocolate and a biscuit for everyone if permitted.

Church Christmas Tree to be put up the week beginning 7th December inside.

Newsletter Intimation w/b 16th November asking people to donate gifts that will go under the Church Christmas Tree – labelled in terms of boy/girl and male/female with potential age. For the gifts to be distributed to homes on w/b 14th December.

Christmas Zoom Concert – get people's names who wish to "Zoom" in on the 15th December. Ask home bakers to deliver appropriate home baking on Monday 14th which will be delivered to those intending to "be" at Concert and for them to have tea/coffee/mulled wine with home baking at interval. Start advertising for names in Newsletter w/b 16th November.

Christmas Gift Envelope to be delivered to every home with Newsletter w/b 30th December.

The Christmas Angels will be distributed to every member along with the envelope.

Christmas Angels to be placed round Touch after the tree is up and offered to the Schools.

Ally is planning on starting a hot meals service – there will be further intimation of this.

Christmas Eve Zoom Service to be held at 7pm.

Christmas Day Service in the Church at 10.30am.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Group is pleased to confirm the meetings will restart in November and extends a warm welcome to every man at St Margaret's Church and the Dunfermline community to join in a Covid safe Zoom discussion meeting.

The Group will meet mid monthly from November 2020 to April 2021 starting at 9.30am finishing at 10.30am. Meetings will normally be led by a guest speaker or occasionally be a discussion within the group members on the chosen subject.

To register please email John McLean at jb.mclean@btinternet.com to confirm your email address for future communications and the Zoom Links, or telephone John on 07801801526.

The Zoom link will be emailed to all registered members with the meeting opening ten minutes prior to the start time

First ZOOM Meeting

21st November 2020 – 9.30am to 10.30am

The opening topic will be:- How has Covid changed the future of our Church and Worship?

The meeting will be an open discussion between the group members.