

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

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25th December 2020 Newsletter

So here we are at Christmas 2020 and I don't believe that any one of us would believe that this is how it would be.

What then has not changed, even though just a few days ago we were told that Christmas was "cancelled" – or that is the way it was put by some people in the Media?

Immanuel, meaning God is with us – that has not changed. This was the great promise at the coming of the Messiah. This is the forever promise of God to the world, that the coming of Jesus would usher in a Kingdom that would never end.

"I will never leave you nor will I forsake you!" That is the promise of God rooted in the name Immanuel given to Jesus. We can therefore be assured that Jesus has been with us every step of the way because, unlike us, His word cannot be broken.

Thankfulness has not changed. We have so much to be grateful for, despite what we are going through. We have a country that is still able to support us materially, medically and in a raft of different ways. Think of parts of the world that are so poor, there is little or no support and you quickly see that we have a huge amount to be thankful for – think even of somewhere like the US where some people cannot get effective treatment because they lack adequate medical insurance – look at the infection and

death rate there! We have so much to be thankful for.

Humility. Was it not into the most humble of circumstances that the Saviour was born? We will have more than enough this Christmas and our hearts and minds should be humble when we consider the greed and excess all around us. I have to say that I have been humbled by the way you good people of St. Margaret's have regularly dipped into your pockets to supply food for the food table, presents and gifts for those who have little and the money to cover all of our financial needs as a Church – I have seldom felt so grateful and humble as I have these last few months – thankyou!

Worship. The Shepherds rushed from their fields and came to worship the child they had been told about. The Wise Men came from afar and paid homage and worship at the stable. They all bowed down in body, spirit and mind at the feet of the Promised One. It is our turn to go back in time in our minds and worship and pay homage to the great thing that the Lord has done in the sending of His Son.

Joy. Does not the news about the impending birth of a child or the birth of that child warm your heart and fill you with joy and hope? Joy is that settled sense of well-being. All is well. Our world and our lives are in safe hands despite what we might feel to the contrary sometimes, because of the birth and coming of the One who is without equal and who is mighty to save.

Let me therefore wish all of you a very happy Christmas despite the limitations we all must face this year. May the One whose love for you is limitless bring peace and joy into your hearts and minds this Christmas time.

Iain

Intimations

There will be a Zoom Service on Wednesday evening at the normal time of 6.45 for 7pm

On Christmas Eve there will be a Christmas Eve Service at 7.00pm on Zoom.

There will be no Service on Sunday 27th December although there will be a thought for the day on our Facebook Page that day.

The next diet of Worship will be on 3rd January 2021. Because of the new Tier restrictions, we will only be able to have 20 people at Church for worship – if you wish to be there please let Irene Cunningham know – 01383 731947

From Moira Watson

Just to let you know that Moira will be in touch with everyone who has made a special donation to say thankyou.

Finances

The Kirk Session Executive made the decision to pay our Mission and Ministry deficit to the Church of Scotland with immediate effect. Thanks to the generosity of the Congregation we were able to do this. Both the Minister and the Treasurer would like to thank you for your support.

Getting the Right Info

One day in early September the chief of a Native American tribe was asked by his tribal elders if the winter of 2011/12 was going to be cold or mild. The chief asked his medicine man, but he too had lost touch with the reading signs

from the natural world around the Great Lakes.

In truth, neither of them had idea about how to predict the coming winter. However, the chief decided to take a modern approach, and the chief rang the National Weather Service in Gaylord Michigan.

'Yes, it is going to be a cold winter,' the meteorological officer told the chief.

Consequently, he went back to his tribe and told the men to collect plenty of firewood.

A fortnight later the chief called the Weather Service and asked for an update. 'Are you still forecasting a cold winter?' he asked. 'Yes, very cold', the weather officer told him.

As a result of this brief conversation the chief went back to the tribe and told his people to collect every bit of wood they could find.

A month later the chief called the National Weather Service once more and asked about the coming winter. 'Yes,' he was told, 'it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever.' 'How can you be so sure?' the chief asked. The weatherman replied: 'Because the Native Americans of the Great Lakes are collecting wood like crazy.'

Bad Jokes

Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible? Samson because he brought the house down.

Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible? Egypt, when Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.