

Weekly Newsletter: Issue No. 30

From Seòras



Services to resume in-person from Sunday 25th October!

Some good news to report this week! After some very hard work from members behind the scene (in particular John McConnachie!) we are now planning on resuming services from the end of the month. Kirk Session and Presbytery have approved the opening, and we are moving to have a short service of worship in each of our church buildings each Sunday from the 25th October.

There will of course be some obvious differences to normal worship such as; sanitising stations, spaced seating, cap on numbers, doors remaining open etc. However, it will be great to resume worship in person for those who wish to do so. We are working on having one of the services live-streamed as well.

More details (how to book and timings) will follow in the coming weeks, so stay tuned!





A warm welcome to Moray Presbytery's new minister!

Rev Eddie Enslin has swapped the Dutch Reformed Church in Johannesburg, South Africa to take up a post at Mortlach and Carbrach Parish Church.

All the best in your ministry here Eddie.

Congratulations to the newly-weds, Ruth and Josh Bradbury! Not letting a pandemic get in the way of getting married, these two re-arranged their wedding in two days!

All the best in your life together from all at Bellie and Speymouth, and it was a delight to help your day come together





It's not been the nicest weather the last week, especially out at sea!

And so, it's been time to improvise a new cold water swimming/fishing location at the manse ...



God around us, God within us - Boundaries



Our homes, our streets, our roads, villages, shops, parks, almost every part of our communities involve boundaries. Markings, signposts, fences, walls, signals ... everywhere you look, from human created ones to the edge of our land.

Boundaries are used for all sorts of purposes. One of the key ones is safety. In the manse for example, we had a fence put up in the garden last year. My dad

did a huge favour in constructing this, as we realised that it would be a great help in keeping wee Sullie safe. He now has a place to play around in, without the worry of getting out towards the road.

Boundaries also manifest as limits in various places. The number of people that can safely travel on a bus, the weight limit for bridges, the voltage limit for a circuit. We are being given ever evolving regulations on what limits we should put on our behaviour in order to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Another example would be our roads. These crucial passageways are laid out with all sorts of boundary markers to keep drivers safe. Imagine if all of our roundabouts, junctions, streets and motorways didn't have lanes, lines or markers! It would be chaos!

In the same way, our streets are laid out to keep traffic and pedestrians apart. Cars can't drive on the pavement, and we can't go for a stroll down the dual carriageway. This is not an exercise in unjust suppression, it is for our own good.



In the same way, God has given us boundaries for our lives which are for our own good. By studying the Bible, through prayer, and sound teaching, we can learn and grow in what it means to live a Christian life that is pleasing to God, living within the boundaries He has given us.

It says in 2 John 1:6 "And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it"

It isn't always easy to follow these commandments, to stay within the boundaries that God has given us. There are things in life that are incredibly appealing which God does not want for us, and the reason why we pray "Lead us not into temptation" in the Lord's prayer. It is easy to get pulled into sinful actions, and so the Christian life is described as a narrow road – it's not easy to stay on it! But at times where we struggle, we can ask for the Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and trust in the assurance that God knows what is best for us.



There are many ways in which we could live our lives, many philosophies we could use to decide how we

act and behave, but *God's way is the best way*. His boundaries ultimately are for our good, and for His glory.

Let us pray;

Heavenly Father, we pray that you would guide us by your Holy Spirit to walk the narrow path. To follow the boundaries that you have placed for our own good. Help us to be good witnesses for your Kingdom, to do what is just and right in



your eyes. When we feel tempted, lead us away, and give us the self-control to stay true to your commands. When we fail,

Lord we know that your path - your way - is the best way, so we will follow. AMEN.



Harvest Thanksgiving All round us the harvest is being gathered-in whether in fields or gardens. We have much to be thankful for.

Normally we would have a Harvest Thanksgiving service on the first Sunday in October. That's not going to happen this year and even if it did, there wouldn't be many attending. At the Harvest Thanksgiving Service, we normally seek offerings for others who are less fortunate than ourselves. So, this year, the Kirk Session recommends we all make a generous donation to Christian Aid to allow them to share our 'harvest' with the poor in the world.

The easiest way to donate is to go the Christian Aid web-site at, www.christianaid.org.uk and there you will find various ways you can make your donation.

