

**Weekly Newsletter No 9 – Sunday 17 May 2020**

### **Welcome Back Seoras**

By now, most of you will be aware that our minister, Rev Seoras Orr, or as we know him, Seoras, has returned to us after his illness. It has been a while but Seoras, with Debbie and Sullie, has kept the faith and with God's help, much praying and the assistance of medical professionals, he has made sufficient recovery to allow him back to work. Initially it is only for a couple of days a week but as his health continues to improve, Seoras will soon be back full time. So Seoras, from all your friends at Bellie and Speymouth and the wider community,



**'Welcome back - we missed you'**

### **The Power of Prayer**

During this period of 'lock-down' many of us are praying 'together-apart' at various times during the day or week. There are those who pray each day at 12 noon and those who form the PPG (Pyjama Prayer Group) at 8.00am each Wednesday.



However, at 7.00pm each Sunday evening all Christians in Scotland, of whatever denomination, are invited by the leaders of thirteen Scottish Churches, including the Church of Scotland, to pray together. Details of the prayers can be found on the Church of Scotland web-site.

This means we join with our Christian sisters and brothers in England who also pray together at 7.00pm each Sunday. They use the hashtag '#prayersofhope' to share the message on social media. We know that God hears the voice of one soul crying in the wilderness but let's deafen God with the voices of millions of souls praying together.

### **Prepare for Pentecost**

This year, Pentecost falls on Sunday 31 May 2020. While this year, the celebrations may be different from previous years, there is no reason they should be any less joyful. Of the three annual major Christian festivals, Pentecost is the least celebrated but we sometimes refer to it as the 'birthday of the Church'. So how can we celebrate this birthday.



How about a 'Pentecost Parade' similar to the Easter Parade? As a suggestion, let's take pictures of each other while wearing something red. Guys, you could wear a red tie – remember ties? Or carrying something red or make a flame (don't set fire to yourself!), anything to show the fire of the Spirit descending. That should get us thinking about Pentecost – you may like to read Acts 2: 1-21 to remind you of the details of Pentecost.



Catherine's 'Fire' tulips

Indoor Camp-fire

## Help is at hand!

At the start of the 'lock-down' there was a rush of people wishing to volunteer to help those who were totally isolated or experiencing other difficulties. The response was quite simply, amazing and throughout our area, communities have rallied both on an individual and a collective level. Things have now settled down somewhat but there still some areas where help can be given. There are still people out there who want to help.

If you know of someone who may be struggling or if you are struggling yourself, please get in touch and we can try to assist. There are some food parcels available locally and there



may be help for those who are struggling financially. In certain cases, hot meals can be delivered to someone's home. We may be able to organise lifts to hospitals or it may be that someone, perhaps someone on their own, would appreciate a packet of biscuits to have with their cuppy - just let us know and we can organise.

Please, if it's you or someone you know get in touch. You may be amazed at what can be done.

For those who wish to know more, contact Karen Delaney from Moray Council on 07800 670692 or just give me a ring on 01343 820671 – like everyone else, I'm not going anywhere these days.



## Families in Lock-down.

It has now been eight weeks since the schools closed and families have been together at home. There is no doubt that some people are feeling the strain and, in most cases, children are missing the social mixing with friends at school. Every school child who answered my most unscientific survey of how they were doing, said they were missing their friends even though they were keeping in contact with Facetime or similar. Parents are doing a great job of looking after the kids, helping them with school work, encouraging them with other activities eg baking, gardening, housework (tidying seems to be a favourite although there was one comment that a certain brother does not tidy up!). It appears we shall have a generation of expert bakers, gardeners or housekeepers but who may struggle with Advanced Calculus!



Parents who are working from home in addition to looking after the kids are finding some real difficulties.



Several who are teachers, are working full time looking after their students and at the same time looking after their own children. Some are working well into the evening preparing work for the next day. Many who are working from home, not just teachers, are working as hard as ever, perhaps more than ever.

So next week, when we stand at our doors or in our gardens to applaud the NHS workers, let's give an extra clap for those families who are stuck at home – **THEY ARE ALL HEROES.**

### **Birthdays - Anniversaries - Special Days**

Last week there were a couple of birthdays and anniversaries. It was great to see how folk 'gathered-round', well you know what I mean. People sent birthday cards, greetings cards and cakes – that was special. In the coming week, there will be other birthdays and special days so from all your Church Family,

Tan-tarra-tan-tan-tan-taaaah



# *Have a super day*

### **Scones and Baking**

The bakers have been at it again – no wonder the CO-OP has run out of self-raising flour. Here are some of this week's results (you can send in pictures of the 'burnt-offerings as well – and of course we will name you!)



Ann's 'Lock-down treats'.

Charlotte's birthday cake



Catherine's cheese scones.

### **Hang-in there folks – you're doing great.**

This is the start of week nine of 'lock-down'. So far, most of us have coped reasonably well but for some, things have been tough and cracks are starting to appear. We may be some time away from worshipping together and goodness only knows what that will look like when we do get back together. Just remember to pray and have faith that God will lead us out of the period.

One thing which has emerged from this is the spirit of working together for the good of everyone. There have been some great ideas for doing things together but the best I have seen so far, is from New Zealand – 'A Virtual Beer Festival'! Now how good is that.



Blessings on all of you  
John