



Weekly Newsletter 6 – Sunday 26 April 2020

Easter is not over - Thank you Thomas, Cleophas and his friend.

What a great week it has been for weather and for those of us who can get out it has been a super week to see Spring burst out all round. The trees are in flower, the crops in the fields are growing, the tatties are planted, lambs and calves are out in the fields – God’s creation in all its splendour. It all gives a view of new life and new hope – the message of Easter.

Last week, the lectory Bible readings were concerned with the Apostle Thomas who, when hearing that Jesus had visited the other apostles after he had been crucified, gave the equivalent response of, ‘Aye right’. Would we have been any different? Then later when Jesus came and visited the apostles and Thomas saw Jesus for himself, he knelt before Jesus and said the words, “My Lord and my God”. Thanks Thomas. (There are no further mentions of Thomas in the Bible but it is known he ended up in India – there is a Synagogue in Kochi (Cochin) in Southern India which has been there for centuries. Was Thomas visiting the Jewish community in Kochi? He went on to found the Christian community in South India, a community which thrives today). Then in today’s (Sunday’s) reading, Cleophas and his friend were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus when Jesus came and walked with them. They didn’t recognise Jesus, why should they?- he was dead, it couldn’t be Jesus - until when they were having supper together, then POW, it’s Jesus! But Jesus vanished then.



Jewish Synagogue in Kochi (2014)

Two simple stories involving ordinary guys but they recognised the Risen Jesus. You could argue that Thomas and the other apostles had an interest in Jesus rising from the dead but Cleophas and his friend? These three guys confirmed the Easter message that **Jesus had Risen** and was alive – even Scots Law recognises the evidence of three eye witnesses!

So, if it’s good enough for them, it’s certainly good enough for me – the message of Easter.

Church of Scotland Web-site

If you have time (!) have a look at the Church of Scotland web-site. It really is a great source of information and is full of interesting, hopeful, inspiring articles. It is one of the best and most cheerful ‘church’ web-sites I have come across, lots of colour, jokes and pictures. The articles are certainly relevant and kept up to date.



There is an extensive list of on-line worship services from all over Scotland. News and information are all easily accessed using the links provided. This is one of the best things to come out of 121 George Street!

Bellie & Speymouth Church

Reaching out - Welcoming in

Life and Work

For obvious reasons, the May edition of Life and Work will not be available in printed form at this time. Even if we could get copies, the distribution could prove difficult. However, this month's edition is available, free, online and can be found at

<https://www.lifeandwork.org/resources/free-download-may-2020>

The magazine comes in A4 size pages and unlike some other online magazines, simply scrolls down through the pages – *(sigh of relief)*. Some on-line magazines can be a pain trying to turn pages then getting that wrong and ending up with an advert on caravan television ariels or car insurance! You can print out the magazine on your own printer you wish but if you go down that route, remember, it is 60 pages long and in colour. You can try to print out selected pages rather than the whole thing but that takes a fair bit of time.



You never know, we may be able to have the June edition in print and be able to distribute to subscribers – one lives in hope.



I know that last week we asked for people for money to help our church finances and it may seem a bit of a cheek asking for more money. But at this time, CrossReach, the social arm of the Church of Scotland is in dire need of assistance.

Social Care is under enormous strain because of coronavirus and CrossReach is not immune from these pressures. This is Christian love in action that deserves our backing.

While you can send money direct to CrossReach, you may consider joining the Rt Rev Colin Sinclair the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland taking part in the 2.6 Challenge. (You don't need to dress in a posh jacket, kilt and trainers!)

Full details for the 2.6 Challenge can be found on the Church of Scotland website.

The Challenge involves raising money while having some fun. As the Moderator says, " People could try and memorise the last 26 Moderators of the General Assembly in order, bake 26 cakes for neighbours, jump 26 times on a trampoline, donate 26 items to a foodbank or even sing their favourite hymn 26 times".

Other suggestions include drawing 26 rainbows in appreciation for NHS and care staff, writing down 26 things they are thankful for, doing 26 jumping jacks, running 2.6 miles in the house or back garden or wearing 26 pieces of clothing at once and working in them all day.



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Birthdays

Last week we mentioned a couple of birthdays which was fine. But, what of those who have a birthday but are not mentioned for whatever reason? Those people could feel somewhat left out or even that they don't matter as much as those mentioned. It is maybe better that we send all of those who have a birthday or an anniversary our blessings and best wishes each week. So:-

To all of you who have a birthday or an anniversary in the coming week, on behalf of your church family,



Have a great day or at least, the best day you can have in the circumstance



Home Cooking - 'Virtual Bake-off'

Many of you, especially the younger ones who are at home may be trying out some cooking. How about, for next week, a 'Scone Competition'. This will be open to those of us who normally



never venture into baking scones – young and old (I have made scones twice in my life, see left!). Once the scones are baked, send in a photo of your scones and we shall get an expert to judge albeit from the photos – and 'Yes' we know what the Co-op scones look like, so nae cheating! Sid W and Alison M– you are disqualified, it's for amateurs, nae professionals like you!

**Second Effort
– three eaten!**

Could some of youz guys nae work frae hame?

Have a happy week, pray for those who are struggling, for those living on their own, for those who are ill with the virus and other conditions and for the army of people who are working to look after them and those who are trying to keep our society together. Do try to have some fun this week.

May God Bless all of you as we look forward to the time we can all be together again.

John

