

Bellie & Speymouth Church
Reaching out - Welcoming in

Weekly Newsletter No 15 – Sunday 28 June, 2020

Blessing

Well, did you have a look and listen to the recoding of The Blessing, the UK one and the Scottish one. Almost every country has now recorded its own Blessing: Scotland, Ireland, Canada, Australia, Nigeria. Are these not just fantastic? God has given such wonderful talent to all these people as well as those who did all the tech work and pulled it together – now surely that’s worth a big ‘Thank You’.



And now that we have you watching Youtube you can enjoy the performances of Celtic Worship and some other performances – try the ‘Quarantine Choir, Psalm 151’, musical talent and some fun.

It’s been a quiet week but, in this quietness, people are working to keep things going. Parents are struggling to keep the kids at their schoolwork. The youngsters know the summer holidays are close and after 14 weeks of lockdown many of them are keen to put down the books, tablets, ipads or laptops and start some serious playing. Let’s pray that they can enjoy the summer and pray they will get back to normal schooling in August.



Worship and Prayer

Each and every Sunday, ministers and others preach the Gospel and invite us to join them in worship through the miracle of electronic communication. There are live Zoom services, pre-recorded services on Websites and Facebook.



Worship from
Cullen

OUR CHURCHES ARE NOT CLOSED. The buildings may be shut for the time being but this is an opportunity for us to look outwards and sample the huge variety of ways we can join in worship. There are ministers in flowing robes, some (admittedly few) wearing dog-collars but most in relaxed clothes. There are new songs, old songs sometimes sung to traditional tunes, sometimes sung to different tunes and words of praise from all over Scotland and the wider Christian Community. It could be this pandemic is allowing us to come closer to our sisters and brothers in other churches.

We can also join with Christians all over Scotland at 7.00pm each Sunday for a time of prayer. Imagine that, thousands of people praying together at the same time – wonderful.

Shaken Awake

One of the things I have learnt in the last two years with our son Sullivan is what the phrase "rudely awakened" means! Especially in the first few months of parenting, there was no such thing as a 'morning routine' - only a groggy blur as a broken night merged into the rest of the day. (I don't think the memory of bouncing him around and singing in the middle of the night will ever leave me!)



The arrival of Sullivan altered my life in many ways, and I had to make many changes in response. It was as if my whole life had been picked up and given a good shake. At the moment, most of the world is experiencing a "shake". Normality has changed, routine has changed, our rhythm of rest and work has changed. Many people are experiencing that feeling of wandering around in a daze.

On a positive note, many people feel like they have been 'rudely awakened' to the big questions of life and faith. Bible sales have gone through the roof, church 'attendance' is the highest in years, online Alpha courses are flourishing, and internet searches for prayer and scripture have massively increased.

Thankfully, in this difficult time, we worship the One who is unshakable. We are anchored to the rock, the only truly secure foundation we can find.

Hebrews 12:28-29 "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our 'God is a consuming fire.'"

God is more powerful and mighty than the things that 'shake' our world. Although we may feel overwhelmed or distressed, let us turn in the quiet of our hearts to Jesus and find 'solid ground'.

God bless,
Seòras

Messy Church treasure Hunt

Yesterday was the Messy Church Treasure hunt. There was a good crowd of parents and kids who enjoyed themselves and took part in the fun. We'll have some photos for next week – photo glitch for this week



Birthdays, anniversaries and Special Days.

Statistically there are not so many birthdays in the summer (I shall refrain from wishing people 'Happy Birthday' just now in case it causes them to rush out to wash their hands) but there are a number of wedding anniversaries. Until not so long ago, it was the norm for couples to marry during at this time of year as they could go on honeymoon or set up their new home during their summer holidays.

Thus, we will have a number of wedding anniversaries in the coming weeks.

If it's your birthday, wedding anniversary or other special day this week your church family wish you a



Happy Day





At last we can see we are moving forward out of lockdown. From next month various places can open including beer gardens! Hopefully the weather will stay dry for them so the customers don't have to drink their beer quickly to stop the glasses filling up with rain water faster than they can drink the beer.

We have to remember this pandemic has left a trail of broken hearts, broken homes, broken people and we now have a responsibility to help these people. It may simply be a friendly ear or sharing a cuppy with them.

Let's pray then that we can all move forward, together, helping those in need and if it is ourselves in need, accepting the help which others may wish to bring. As we have been reminded by Rev Seoras, none of us should be so proud or stubborn not to need help from time to time.

So, prayers for this week:

- Prayer of thanks for all those who have worked so hard to get us, this far, through the pandemic
- Pray that everyone will be careful with distancing, face covering, hand washing and other safety measures to reduce the risk of catching the virus or passing it on to someone else.
- Pray for those who are working to find a cure or a vaccine for this virus.
- Pray that our church and all churches will continue to work together to bring the Word to everyone while the buildings are shut.
- Pray for the people of those countries where they are still suffering from an increase in the infections from this virus.
- Pray for ourselves.



There's rain forecast (the gardens need it) but that doesn't mean we can't have a sunny outlook. A



smile makes you look younger, makes others feel good and brightens everyone's day.

So let's make this week 'Smiley Week'.



Keep singing 'The Blessing'
John

