

Weekly Newsletter 3 – Sunday 5 April 2020 - PALM SUNDAY

For some of us, that's the third week of self-isolation passed and it looks like a 'long-haul'. If you were wondering where the word 'quarantine' comes from, well, it is Italian. In the Middle-ages, when ships arriving at Venice were thought to be carrying disease, they had to remain outside the harbour for forty days – 'quarantena'.



The first biblical mention of 'quarantine' is in Genesis, Ch 7, v 17 when Noah along with his family and all the other creatures were in the Ark and for 'forty days the flood kept coming'. In the new testament, three of the four Gospel writers mention Jesus being in the desert for forty days and nights. So, there is nothing new about 'quarantine' or the new posh name, self-isolation.

Hey, It's Palm Sunday – This is when we remember the time when Jesus entered Jerusalem, riding on a colt and was welcomed by people cheering him and waving the branches of palm trees. It is a day of some relief before we enter Holy Week. There will be lots of Services available on-line today so take some time and watch one while at home. (Apart from anything else, the seating will be more comfortable but for those of you who prefer pews, you can support a plank between two kitchen chairs or find a hard seat!)



Rev Wes Brandon (Buckie South and West) does an outdoor Service each Sunday (last Sunday it was from Portknockie) and Rev Douglas Stevenson (Cullen) does a Daily Reflections on Youtube. These can be accessed through the individual church's web-site.

For the younger folk in our church family, have a look at **Sermons4kids**. There is some super stuff on this site including drawing, puzzles and stories all suitable for kids (big people might enjoy it too). So have a look. If you are older and don't know how to access this on your laptop or iPad, let the kids show you how!

This coming week is Holy Week. Normally we would have early morning devotions each day at Bellie Church. Although we cannot gather in the Session Room this year, we can still sit together (but apart) and pray together each morning at 8.00am. Take some time on Thursday to remember the Last Supper and on Friday to remember the crucifixion of Jesus – lots of Services on-line. Then it's **Easter Sunday - now here's a plan** 

Normally we would gather, at 7.00am in the garden at Speymouth Church for our Service of Holy Communion. Well we can't do that this year but how about this. Why not get up and at 7.00am get into our gardens or just by an open window with a piece of bread and some wine, non-alcoholic if you wish, and hold our own service of prayer and worship. Say the words which a minister would say (1st Cor. Ch 11:v 23-25) then eat the bread and drink the wine. This would be a symbolic personal communion which celebrates Easter and remembers the core of our faith.

Moray Foodbank – Last week some of our church family collected items of food to donate to the foodbank. Due to our self-isolation, not all of us can do that. Moray foodbank is struggling just now so on your behalf the church has made a donation of £1,000 to Moray foodbank from the tithe of the bequest of the late Tom Paton. This was money held in reserve for such emergencies.

Bellie & Speymouth Church
Reaching out - Welcoming in

Rainbows. To brighten things up, you may wish to draw a rainbow and place it in a window where others can see it. Several houses in the area already have a rainbow, some have several rainbows, in the windows. The rainbow is a sign from God of his covenant with 'all life on earth' (Gen Ch 9, v 13-17). So, get out the paints or colouring-in pencils and let's see lots of



in windows. How about some palm leaves -



May God Bless us all.
John