



TRINITY CHURCH COWDENBEATH

A MESSAGE FROM THE LOCUM MINISTER AND SESSION CLERK

Dear Church Family Member

With just a few weeks until I retired "again" the Corona Virus has had a devastating effect on all societies around the world including our community. Because of this I have decided to stay with you until the situation changes and we can then re- group and set a direction for the future together.

This is a very disturbing time of uncertainty and fear as we experience something never seen before in our lifetime. It has made me think on the words of the angel speaking to Mary Magdalene as she experienced something never seen before. Whilst at the empty Tomb of Jesus, the angel spoke to her and said, "don't be alarmed." Remember too the words of the risen Jesus in the Upper room when he said to his disciples, "Peace be with you"! Let's be concerned but not be alarmed or afraid in these times, but let us through faith, receive and hold The Peace of Christ.

As you will know, The Church of Scotland ceased all gatherings for worship from the 17th March until further notice. Other Scottish Churches are taking similar actions. This sadly will include Easter services and all other group gatherings, both for congregational and outside organisation purposes. Our buildings will remain closed until the current situation is under control and it is appropriate to resume group activities.

Prayer. Daily prayer is essential and in addition I invite you each Sunday in particular, either at 9.45am or 11.15am, to read a chosen passage of Scripture and to pray making use of the words offered by The Moderator, the Right Reverend Colin Sinclair: *they are enclosed with this letter.*

Pastoral Care Networks

Your safety and well-being are our priority. If you need assistance of any kind, shopping done or just a listening ear, then please call the Pastoral Care Contact Team, their details are:

Arthur Christie 01383 511326 Margaret Steven 01383 515468
Elizabeth Hunter 01383 512352 Ann Miller 01383 512029

Information will also be posted on our website. cbtrinity.co.uk

Because we aren't meeting that doesn't mean we aren't connected, so get on the phone, use WhatsApp, Facebook, text or the internet as best you can, if you can.

Offerings. The Church is aware that closing down worship services will impact very badly on congregational income, and we want to encourage everyone to continue contributing financially as far as possible.

Please be encouraged to save up those envelopes, or better still, use a standing order as an expression of ongoing support. Our Bank details are:
Cowdenbeath Trinity Church account no 00237237 – sort code 800885.

*James 2: 8 If you really keep the Royal Law found in scripture
" Love your neighbour as yourself"
you are doing right*

May God's shield protect you and His love enfold you.

**Rev Arthur Christie
Locum Minister**

**Mrs Margaret Steven
Session Clerk**

MODERATORS PRAYER

Living God, in our hour of need we turn again to you, for we have nowhere else to turn. We put our faith in you, because you have proved your faithfulness time and again. We reaffirm our love for you because you have never let us go.

We thank you that you are not distant from us, but have drawn near, in your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. He has shared our life, tasted our death and defeated it; He understands our worries and our fears. Help us to respond as your children now.

We pray for this pandemic spreading across our world, remembering all who have lost loved ones and praying for those seriously ill at this time.

We uphold the National Health Service as it responds to this added pressure on its already overstretched services, especially we pray for doctors and nurses and all in the caring professions, who work to help and support people as best they can.

We remember those working behind the scenes testing samples, confirming results, giving information to patients. We uphold others trying to understand this virus better. working to create an effective remedy.

We pray for our Governments in Westminster and Holyrood, as they work with the best medical advice to guide us on how we should respond and what action we should take.

We pray that these guidelines might be taken seriously and that all would put them into action. May this crisis bring out the best in us, not the worst. Help us to live by faith and not by fear; to build bridges not barriers, and to resist all who would speak ill of any other group. May we not forget our responsibility to one another, not least to the vulnerable and voiceless in our communities. Help us to find ways of keeping in touch and offering reassurance to those with underlying health issues; for any who feel particularly vulnerable or in danger at present as the virus spreads.

We pray for the disruption it causes to normal life, bringing new fears and anxieties: We pray for those who have been laid off as their work disappears; for financial hardship for individuals and businesses, for the impact on the economy and pensions, when austerity has already left its mark.

We pray for those whose trips, both for business and pleasure, have been cancelled and others where events, long anticipated and planned for, have been postponed; for those making contingency planning for home-based work or childcare or exams. May our inconvenience not blind us to others' loss. We remember those who cannot visit loved ones in locked-down care homes or hospitals. For the elderly whose social contacts have been severely curtailed; help us to find creative ways of keeping in touch, of assuring them they are not forgotten or ignored. May congregations find new ways of living though this time.

May we not forget our faith but draw strength from it.

God of grace and God of mercy hear our prayers at this time.

Strengthen us, by your Spirit, so that we may carry on our lives as best as we can looking out for others, showing love in action, being faithful in prayer, and bringing encouragement, hope and peace; always trusting in you our Rock and our Redeemer.

These prayers we bring to you in Jesus' name. **Amen.**