

Christ Church, Dalbeattie & St. Ninian's Castle, Douglas

SC010918 & SC011079

Newsletter No. 19

Pentecost 8

26th, July 2020

1 Kings 3:5-12, Ps 119: 129-136, Romans 8: 26-39, Matt 13: 3-33, 44-52

PAX

Dear friends in Christ



The ship of life is being repainted?

It is wonderful seeing activity return to the high streets of Dalbeattie and Castle Douglas. Most of the shops are open, as are some of the coffee shops, though some, sadly, have 'To Let' signs up. The High Street experience is very different though, as you enter shops wearing your face mask and, almost invariably, sanitising your hands! Should you go for a coffee you are required to leave a contact telephone number in case 'Track & Trace', heaven forbid, need to contact you. Life is very different, yet not so! It

appears to me to be rather like a ship that has been painted in the same way for years. We have grown accustomed to it. It has aged. The once new colour has faded and become familiar. However, the time for a repaint is long overdue and the new colours are very different – they are going to take a bit of getting used to. I am not even sure that someone isn't modifying the boat which we have travelled in and learnt to love, as well?! Only time will tell how our familiar ship will look, when the work is all finished.

The Conversion of St. Paul could perhaps give us a context for our current situation. In my experience St. Paul is someone we do not talk about in church very often. As a character he is not particularly comfortable. Could it be because he challenges us? Brings us up short? His words can be very uncomfortable!

What is your knowledge of St. Paul like?

Do you know how many times the story of his conversion is told in the New Testament?¹

¹ **Paul's conversion** is first recorded in Acts 9:1-28, secondly to the Jews of Jerusalem in Acts 22:1-21, and then to King Agrippa at Caesarea in Acts 26:4-23. Galatians 1: 13-17, and finally 1 Cor 15: 8

In Luke's account, in Acts, we find Paul going about his daily work, travelling to Damascus,² when suddenly everything changes – his life is transformed. Everything that he had worked against, he now finds himself preaching and doing! He has moved from being a Pharisee to a Publican! He sees that his living out of the Law (found in Leviticus) has led him to participate in putting Jesus to death! His following of The Law has made him a sinner! This is a huge turnaround. Paul's journey from Straight Street (where he met Ananias and began his relationship with the Christian Community) is a journey into holiness. His holiness is not a legal formula to be followed, but a Way to Life! A life that leads to death and beyond...

This is how we must see the future: It is an opportunity to correct the wrongs which we have discovered in our society and the world. We have the chance to be truly Holy! Through our experience of 'lockdown' we have reconnected with nature in a far more positive way than the nature programmes we have loved to watch. We have learnt about the plight of others and how we must value them. The life of society and the Church have become far too complex. Now, is the time to plan and recover our future and the lives of those who have suffered so much in the past.

To understand where God is leading us. We should meditate on the Beatitude:

'Blessed are the pure in heart," Matt 5: 8

Deep in the depths of this Beatitude is the road ahead. It is not legalistic: It is quite simply the Way to 'new' Life!



Yours in Christ
Christopher
Rector

² Acts 9

**Articles, pictures and contributions to the Newsletter would be very welcome.
Please send all contributions to me for Thursday.**

How Our World Is Changing:

On Thursday evening Jenny Wright, Edith Thorp and myself met with our new bishop, the Rt Rev Kevin Pearson and his wife Elspeth, without leaving home! All by the magic of the internet and a Zoom Regional Council meeting. Which made us look like a pack of 21 playing cards. Bp. Kevin told us that his favourite passage in the Bible was from The Letter to the Philippians chapter 2: 1-12 which can be summed up in these words "*Let the same mind be in you as in Christ Jesus.*" This was his message to us. Bp. Kevin hopes to spend a week being physically present in Galloway, getting to know us all, as soon as it is possible. Our meeting lasted one and a half hours with no travelling taking place!

This week I have attended a World Community of Christian Meditators (WCCM) Retreat in France, at Bonnevaux, all possible through the magic of the internet.

The possibilities in our new world are endless. It is up to us to make the most of them and be Christ-like in our daily lives, as we work towards the coming of God's Kingdom.

Do you have a vision you could share with us for the church?

Here is an example of what Zooming can look like:





Blessing for the Place Between by

Jan Richardson

(A special prayer for us all.)

When you come
to the place between.

When you have left
what you held
most dear.

When you are traveling
toward the life
you know not.

When you arrive
at the hardest ground.

May it become
for you a
place to rest.

May it become
for you
a place to dream.

May the pain
that has pressed itself
into you
give way
to vision,
to knowing.

May the morning
make of it
an altar,
a path,
a place
to begin
again.

Please hold in your prayers:

Please continue to pray for Gill Piper – now at home. Francis and Jean Turnbull would appreciate your continued prayers.

RIP Leslie Francis Hanbury

Prayer Themes for Wc. 26th July

Pentecost 8 Pray for the Church and it's life of witness. For The Rt Revd Kevin Pearson Bp Glasgow & Galloway, and his wife Elspeth.

Monday: The NHS, our local surgeries, and all at DGRI.

Tuesday: For those affected by the Coronavirus.

Wednesday: Our local community, key workers & volunteers. Bothwell House, Hanover House, Carlingwark Care Home, Barlochan House Care Home, Munchies Park House, and Alma McFadyen Care Centre.

Thursday: The Government, and all in authority.

Friday: For those with job insecurity or financial difficulties. For a renewal of the Christians Against Poverty (CAP) scheme in Dumfries & Galloway.

Saturday: For refugees throughout the world. For Guidance of the Holy Spirit, and for ourselves.

Gospel Readings for the 17th week of Ordinary Time (Proper 17)

Sunday	Pentecost 8	Matt 13: 3-33, 44-52
Monday	John Comper Pr.	Jn 10: 11-16
Tuesday	Samson Bp.	Jn 21: 15-17
Wednesday	Ss. Martha & Mary	Jn 11: 19-27
Thursday	Silas Companion of St. Paul	Matt 9: 35ff
Friday	St. Ignatius of Loyola	Lk 14: 25-33
Saturday	feria	Matt 14: 1-12

St Samson of Dol. 28th July

Samson was born in Glamorgan, South Wales c 485. His parents, Ammon and Anna, had been childless for many years. When Samson was born they dedicated him to God in thanksgiving for his birth. He was brought up in the abbey at Llantwit Major where he was ordained deacon and priest. Later he went to the abbey on Caldey Island where he served first as cellarer and later became the Abbot. He resigned as Abbot following a preaching



tour in Ireland. He lived as a hermit in South Wales before travelling to Cornwall where he was ordained as a bishop and worked as a missionary, founding monasteries and churches throughout the county. Eventually he crossed the channel to Brittany where he continued his missionary work. He was given land to build a monastery, this became the town of Dol and was the spiritual centre of Brittany. He was later appointed bishop of Dol. He continued to travel as a missionary but was also involved in political affairs in the region. He is credited with many miracles throughout his life. When he felt that his life on earth was ending he set out on a final missionary journey which only ended with his death. He was buried with great ceremony in the cathedral church in Dol but later his bones seem to have become relics in many places including Caldey Abbey.

A Message from St. Ninian's Treasurer: Fred Coulthard

A brief update on how the virus has affected the way the Diocese views the collection of offerings and our own position.

The use of collection bags and indeed cash is strongly discouraged for the foreseeable future, for obvious reasons. The Diocese recommends that, if at all possible, congregations should move to a standing order system, to replace the freewill envelopes and cash in the bag. Please, therefore, give serious consideration to this and, if you wish to follow this advice, contact me on 07702 166372 to discuss the appropriate form.

So far, as our own church is concerned, we are, as members will be aware, blessed with assets well above the norm for a church of our size. At the moment however, we are largely without income, other than via our investments (where companies are cutting dividends), and members standing orders, as mentioned above. As a result of this, our cash reserves are starting to dwindle and now is not the time to be selling shares if it can be avoided.

In an earlier edition of the magazine I asked if those who normally gave weekly could set aside their contributions for the future. Hopefully, that has been happening and I am especially grateful to those of you who have periodically sent me a cheque in that connection. It would now be extremely helpful if anyone else who has been saving their collection

could similarly send me a remittance to 1 Ardcoil Avenue Castle Douglas DG7 3EG.

I fully appreciate that times are hard at present and that some members may not feel able to make over lump sums – any contributions however would be most welcome.

Finally may I express the hope that you are all keeping well and safe in these difficult times.

Fred.

Bible Quiz 4 Answers

1. Who were Cain and Abel? **Sons of Adam and Eve**
2. What is the most popular name in the Bible? **Shemaiah – 27 men named this**
3. What was the name of the tower built to try to reach up to heaven? **Tower of Babel**
4. Did Adam live to be 90 or 930? **930**
5. What special food did the Israelites eat the night they escaped from Egypt? (3 things) **Bread, lamb, bitter herbs**
6. Who went from a prison cell to a palace in one day? **Joseph**
7. Where did Noah's ark finally come to rest after the flood? **Top of Mount Ararat**
8. Who only cut his hair once a year when it got too heavy? **Absalom**
9. Which musical instrument did King David play? **Harp**
10. Why did some little boys mock the prophet Elisha? **He was bald**
11. What was Samson famous for? **Great strength**
12. Which bird was believed to be immortal, always renewing its strength? **The eagle**
13. Where was Jesus baptised? **In the river Jordan**
14. What are the first recorded words of Jesus? **"Why did you seek me?"**
15. How many disciples did Jesus have? **12**
16. Which 2 books of the New Testament were written by a doctor? **Luke and Acts**
17. Which animal did Jesus ride when he entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? **A donkey**
- 18.

19. Apart from a flaming pot, what else did God show Abram? **A blazing torch**
20. What happened to Saul on the road to Damascus? **“A light from heaven flashed about him”**
21. When in prison, who did Paul ask to bring him his cloak, books and parchments? **Timothy**

based on quizzes in *Family Bible Flip Quiz*. © Miles Kelly Publishing Ltd
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Galloway Food Banks

Manager Sarah-Jane Allsopp. If you cannot attend tel: 07730 788 335 or email projects@castledouglas.info and they will deliver to your door.

The Heart of Galloway Visitors Centre, Castle Douglas

Open 12noon to 2pm

The Heart of Galloway food bank, 24 High Street, Dalbeattie.

If you need food, drop in Monday-Friday 12noon-2pm.

Useful Contacts:

National COVID-19 Helpline 0800 111 4000

For people who don't have family or existing community support and can't get online and who are over 70, disabled, require the support of mental health services, are pregnant or receive a flu jab for health reasons, will be directed to our dedicated local team who can offer essential assistance.

NHS24 111 www.nhsinform.scot

Emergency 999

Doctor Out of Hours 111

Dumfries and Galloway Council 030 33 33 3000

www.dumgal.gov.uk/SupportDG

Business Support Helpline 01387 260280 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub 030 33 33 3001

Social Work Out of Hours 01387 273660

Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway 0300 303 8558

Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service 0300 303 4321

www.dagcas.org

Samaritans 116 123

SHOUT Text SHOUT to 85258 for free

Scotland's Domestic Abuse Helpline 0800 027 1234

Age Scotland 0800 12 44 222 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Shelter Scotland 0808 800 444 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

LGBT Helpline Scotland 0300 123 2523

Childline 0800 1111

Dumfries & Galloway Community News

[https://supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/media/23254/Community-Bulletin-](https://supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/media/23254/Community-Bulletin-Edition-)
[Edition-](https://supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/media/23254/Community-Bulletin-Edition-)

[29/pdf/Friday_24_July_Community_Newsletter_web.pdf?m=637311761101230000](https://supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/media/23254/Community-Bulletin-Edition-29/pdf/Friday_24_July_Community_Newsletter_web.pdf?m=637311761101230000)

Bible Quiz 5

1. What creature tempted Eve to disobey God?
2. What are Moriah, Carmel and Sinai?
3. What did God ask Abraham to do to his son Isaac?
4. What healthy diet did Daniel and his friends follow?
5. What were the 10 Commandments written on?
6. Who hired 50 men to run ahead of his chariot?
7. What special food did the Israelites eat in the desert after they had escaped from Egypt?
8. What did God say the serpent would have to eat for the rest of its life?
9. What did Jesus do with the 5 loaves and 2 small fishes?
10. What animal did Solomon ride when he went to be crowned king?
11. Where did Jesus grow up?
12. When did Jesus say to his parents, "Why do you seek me?"
13. Who wrote over 1000 songs?
14. Who climbed a tree to get a better view of Jesus?
15. When was it "dark from the 6th to 9th hour"?
16. What was King Solomon famous for?
17. Who ruled Palestine at the time of Jesus?
18. What 3 things did Timothy take to Paul in prison?
19. How many gospels are there?
20. Who tied up his own hands and feet to show Paul what would happen to him?

based on quizzes in *Family Bible Flip Quiz*. © Miles Kelly Publishing Ltd
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Your
word is a
lamp to
my feet
and a
light to
my path.

Psalm 119:105

