



PORTSOY CHURCH

FAMILY NEWS 19/6/22

Welcome to our weekly news bulletin, keeping you up to date with the latest information on what's happening in Church life in Portsoy, Fordyce and Sandend and also giving you a digested version of John's sermon for the week. It is also available on the CFN page of the Church website.

If you know of someone in the community who isn't online and would like a copy delivered please contact John on 07941 511192.

Weekly Prayer Topic

"As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him." Psalm 103:13

Fathers' Day:-

May men everywhere demonstrate love to their families and to other children in their care. May God strengthen them to protect and tenderly care for them and others they have responsibility and concern for.

Let's Talk: The next Let's Talk is Next Wednesday 22nd June at 3pm or Thursday at 7pm. Let's Talk is an informal study group and everyone is welcome.

Coffee 'n Company: Coffee 'n Company as usual every Tuesday morning from 10.00am until 12 noon. Please come along and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, scone and pancakes and a time to catch up with friends old and new.

Monday Prayers: Our morning prayer gathering will now take place every Monday at 8.00am and the evening gathering at 6.30pm in the Church Centre. Everyone is welcome!

Well Café: The Well Café is for aged nearly 20 to 40-ish every Friday during school term times 9.15 – 11.15am. Relax over complimentary hot chocolate, milky coffee, tea, and snacks etc. Play area for children. Tell your friends and family, and if you'd like to volunteer to help out, let John know.

Coffee and Tea after the service: Coffee and Teas are being served after the service. Please stay and join us if you can. Visitors especially welcome.

Weekly Message from John Gow

John 13: 31-35

The passage our service in church this week is centred upon contains what may be the most important words Jesus ever said. 'Love one another as I have loved you.' These words are so vital Jesus called them 'a new commandment.'

So after He made it so simple for us, why do we make it so complicated sometimes? I belong to various Facebook groups for ministers and on one of them I remember someone posting a quote from John MacArthur, and it said, 'If God were to exercise only his judgement, no person would ever

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be saved.’ Well, this opened up a big debate, a lot of which, to be honest, went pretty much over my head. It was all very good-natured, I’ve got to say, well-intentioned, it was an academic discussion and discussion is good, isn’t it? But it did remind me of something a student said in my first year when I was studying, at the end of a long and complicated class debate. She said, and I can remember the pained expression on her face as she said it, ‘Oh, does all this really matter? I just love Jesus and want to tell everybody about him.’ I think Jesus would have liked that.

When Jesus said, ‘love one another’ it was like a drop of water in a pool, causing ripples. Only the drop that Jesus made doesn’t work the way ripples usually do – the ripples he caused got bigger as they spread out, they became waves and the waves drew up all the stuff that’s in the pool, and eventually they contained all the doctrines, all the theologies, all the prejudices that the world, muddying up that original, pure message. But that original, pure message is still there – that drop in the vast pool is still there. Love one another.

All the things we do to make our lives complicated are in these ripples. And it’s easy for us to lose sight of the centre of the pool, to forget what lies at the heart, that original, pure message. In our communities, in our lives, it’s too tempting to compete, to look at what others have got and want it for ourselves. Or we think what we’ve got is better than what our neighbours have, and I’m not just talking about possessions here, I’m talking about our beliefs too, about the way we think – that’s how religious conflict comes about. That’s how wars start. And that’s the kind of thinking that gives Christianity a bad name to some people. There’s some research I was reading a while back that says a great many people don’t associate Christians with words like ‘compassion’, ‘mercy’ and ‘generosity’ and instead they use words like ‘judgemental’ and ‘unforgiving.’ I’ve got to say, that’s it’s not my experience of the church here in Scotland, and it’s certainly not what the church in Portsoy is all about!

But we shouldn’t be complacent. If there is a perception out there that those who profess to be Christians aren’t all they’re supposed to be then we’ve got to keep on doing what we’re doing and don’t stop, keep pressing home the message that loving one another is only way to go, because if we’re not always living up to that new commandment, to love one another, well, then maybe we need to work just that wee bit harder. But it doesn’t mean just talking, it means doing too. As John says in his first letter, chapter 3: *‘If anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.’*