



# PORTSOY CHURCH

## FAMILY NEWS 24/11/24

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 digest 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*

**" But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."  
Philippians 4:19**

Please pray for the young and old, especially those on a low income, who do not have enough to pay their heating and food bills during this hard spell of weather. Pray for relief from their burden of debt and be guided to the right resources for help, comfort and peace.

**Movie Monday:** 'Movie Mondays are back and will continue through the winter months. Movies start at 2pm in the meeting room in the Church Centre. Next Monday's movie is "The King's Speech" starring Colin Firth - The story of King George VI, his unexpected ascension to the throne of the British Empire in 1936, and the speech therapist who helped the unsure monarch overcome his stammer. Come along and enjoy an afternoon movie in a warm space with good company and teas, coffees and snacks at our interval. Everyone is welcome.

**Service of Holy Communion:** Next Sunday's service (1<sup>st</sup> December) is our Communion Service at the usual time of 10.30am.

**Coffee 'n Company:** Coffee 'n Company is 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 takes place every Monday at 8.30am in the Church Centre. Everyone is welcome!

**Well Café:** Every Friday during term time from 9.15 to 11.15 providing free tea, coffee, fruit and snacks together with a play area for the children.

### **Message from John Gow**

John 18: 33-37a

The passage we're looking at in church this week is one that's more usually read at Easter, but given that this Sunday is Christ the King Sunday, when we celebrate the kingship of Jesus, it's perfectly appropriate – at least, I think so!

In the scene the passage describes, which is Jesus standing before Pilate, we have a bashed and bruised Jesus standing before the most powerful figure in the region: the person who has the ultimate say about whether Jesus is going to live or die. The meeting takes place in the Palace and Pilate, I'm sure he appears in all his Roman finery.

By contrast, Jesus, he's dusty and dirty, with his hands tied and showing all the evidence of his having been roughed up and mistreated. So even before a word is spoken, the power dynamics in this conversation are obvious. One of the two in this conversation has plenty of power. The other has

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none.

Pilate asks Jesus, “*Are you the King of the Jews?*”

Jesus simply asks him why he asks, and Pilate replies: “*Do you think I’m a Jew?*”, he says, “*it’s your own people who are saying these things!*”

“Ok”, says Jesus (and I’m paraphrasing here), “So if I was the kind of king you believe I am, wouldn’t I have brought an army with me to fight for me, to prevent me being handed over to you? *My kingdom does not belong here...*” Jesus tells Pilate.

“*Are you a king, then?*” replies Pilate!

“It’s you who keeps talking about kings, says Jesus, ‘*I’m talking about the truth I was born to bring...*’”

And Pilate just gives up. “Truth” he says, “what is truth?” And we can imagine his exasperation.

But what did Jesus mean by those words? ‘*My kingdom is not of this world.*’ Was he talking about heaven? Was he talking about a kingdom elsewhere? Was he even talking about a physical kingdom at all.

The way I see it is that Jesus was suggesting that the kind of kingdom he was bringing, it was vastly different from every other kingdom ever known on earth, it was, it is, a kingdom that literally doesn’t belong to this world.

Maybe It belongs to the next world? I’m not sure that’s the case. Even just a quick look at the sorts of things that Jesus said and did – a quick look at the people he interacted with... at the kind of life he led – at the priorities he had – and you can’t help but realise that the kingdom Jesus was forever pointing to, it wasn’t some pie in the sky thing for when we die. I think, for Jesus, the kingdom of God was to come on earth every bit as much as it was in heaven. Those words didn’t sneak into the Lord’s Prayer by accident.

The thing is, Jesus was always turning what people thought on its head, he was forever asking us to look at things from a different direction. And I think that’s what we’re being encouraged to do in this passage from the Gospel of John, I think we’re being encouraged to turn the scene in the Palace on its head. Because what we’re shown is that the most powerful figure in the palace that day, it wasn’t the Roman Governor, it was the one with tied hands and the bruised body. It was the one whose fate lay in the hands of someone else.