



PORTSOY CHURCH

FAMILY NEWS 19/11/23

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 how can they call Him for help if they have not believed? And how can they believe if they have not heard the message? And how can they hear if the message is not proclaimed?”

Romans 10:14

Please pray for those who do not know God and have no one to pray for them. May they be given wisdom to look for Him, His love and that He works in ways we do not understand.

Winter Welcome Days: The Church Centre will be opening until Christmas for Movie Mondays (2-4pm approx) and Souper Thursdays (12-2pm). If you'd like to volunteer to help at either of these, just let John know. This week at Movie Monday we shall be showing “Edie” filmed in the Highlands and starring Sheila Hancock. Please come along and have a cup of coffee or tea and enjoy the film. On Thursday lunchtime soup will be available as well as teas and coffees so feel free to join us.

Joint Service at Cornhill: Next Sunday 26th November at 10am we will be joining with our partner congregations of Cullen and Cornhill for a joint service at Cornhill. There will be no service at Portsoy. If you need a lift to Cornhill please meet outside the Church Centre at 9.30am on Sunday morning.

Focus Magazine: The deadline for the December/January edition of Focus, the church magazine, is this Sunday. Contributions, including articles and photographs, for inclusion should be sent to Johanna Sturrock unicornathome@gmail.com by that date.

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.

Weekly message from John Gow

1 Corinthians 11: 24-26

Last Sunday, in the church and outside at the war memorial, we joined together in an expression of remembrance. Well, this Sunday in church we're taking part in a different kind of remembrance, with the difference being that last week was about remembering what we've lost and who we've lost, whereas today is all about remembering what we've gained, who we've gained. And we do that in our celebration of Holy Communion. In our Bible reading for this week Paul quoted Jesus' words,

spoken on the night before he was crucified, saying, *'Do this in remembrance of me,'* and that's not remembrance that he's gone, but an expression of remembrance that he's still here – and the bread and the wine we're sharing in church are the symbols of his presence, his continuing presence.

Maybe we've all said it when we're speaking to someone we've a common acquaintance with, someone we've not seen for a while. 'Remember me to him (or her)', we say, don't we? And in saying that we're not saying remember our past, the times we shared in the past, but remind him (or her) that I'm still around. That's the same kind of Remembrance as Communion.

Communion is about expectation too: *'As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.'* Until he comes. By taking Communion, we anticipate his return. I've just mentioned Jesus' presence with already with us, but that's his presence in spirit. What Jesus promised here is his return in physical form, and that's a hope we've got to all cling to and celebrate. Communion looks back to the cross but it also looks forward to the day of Jesus coming again.

And then there's examination. Communion is time for us to examine ourselves, to look deep into ourselves: *'Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.'*

When Paul said these words, he was speaking to a church in Corinth that was divided. Each of the groups within that church thought of themselves as better, or worse, than the others. They were judging each other rather and examining each other's faults, when they should have been examining their own. They were the kind of people Jesus was talking about when he said, *'Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye.'* Paul's instructions to the Corinthians, in joining together in Communion, was to take a good, honest look at themselves and understand where they're coming up short. *'If we judged ourselves truly,'* he said, *'we would not be judged.'*

And it's the same for us, as we take Communion. It's a time for us to examine ourselves, to examine our motives, our attitude, our shortcomings too, where we don't measure up, and to judge ourselves truly. But that's not something we should save for Communion, mind you. One of the questions I'm often asked is why we don't take Communion more often. Well, we could, we could have Communion every Sunday, other branches of our faith do. But I suppose the risk there is maybe of it becoming habitual rather than exceptional, a ritual we really just sleepwalk through. We could have Communion every week, we can (and we should, I think) have our own every day, our own, just make it personal between us and our God.