



# PORTSOY CHURCH

## FAMILY NEWS 12/5/24

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*

**"So we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken and the mountains fall into the ocean depths; even if the seas roar and rage, and the hills are shaken by the violence." Psalm 46:2-3**

Please pray for the millions of people worldwide who are powerless to cope with the effects of climate change that threaten their security and livelihoods, driving them further into poverty. May richer nations act urgently to support these countries.

**Coffee Evening: This Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm** Portsoy is hosting a coffee evening with entertainment by Beyond Boyndie. This is a joint social event with Aberdeenshire North Guilds Together. Entry is by donation and the event is open to everyone not just Guild members. Please come along and support us for this first social event for the new organisation. We would also very much appreciate donations of biscuits and cakes and if you are able to help on the night, please let Margaret know.

**Christian Aid Week:** Next week is Christian Aid Week. There are donation envelopes in the Church Centre and will be available during the week. Please take an envelope and return your donations at Coffee and Company or next time you come to Portsoy. There are also quizzes at the back of the Church. Please take one and have a go. All donations to Christian Aid.

**Churches Together:** The Sunday service next week 19<sup>th</sup> May will be a joint service held at 10.30am in Cullen Hall Church with our partner churches of Cullen and Cornhill. There will be no service in Portsoy. If you require a lift to Cullen please meet at the Church Centre at 10.00am.

**Focus Magazine:** The deadline for contributions to the June to July edition of Focus magazine is next Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May. Please send any pictures and articles to Johanna Sturrock [unicornathome@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Message from Steve Hay**

Forgiveness

Hello! It is good to be back in touch with you all, as I cover for John this week. I hope this finds you well, as you receive this?

Probably all of us, at some time, have had somebody tell us that they think church and Christianity are in decline in our country.

Thankfully that's not the case in many parts of the world, where churches are growing, as more and more people turn to Jesus.

But what has caused the lack of interest in our nation?

There are probably a variety of answers to that and you may have your own thoughts on the matter, but I believe a major reason is a lack of awareness, among many people, of their need for forgiveness by God. A lack of awareness of the need for God's forgiveness of sin.

It's like with anything in life, if we don't see a need for something, then we don't usually bother about it. For example, if like me you don't see the need for a smart phone, you'll not bother getting one. My mobile phone will do me ok.

And so equally, if someone thinks, as a person, that they're not that bad, and are actually probably better than a lot of folk, then any idea of needing forgiveness by God, won't occur to them.

That's not to say that most folk think they're perfect. I'm sure even those who don't see their spiritual need for forgiveness by God, have nevertheless gone to other people, at various times during their lives, to say 'sorry' for things they have done wrong.

But the difference is that, in those situations, they saw the need for forgiveness. So they did something about it. They went and asked for it. And when (hopefully!) they received it, I'm sure they were thankful.

Another situation which can lead to thankfulness, is when someone, including ourselves, receives a present from somebody. Especially if it was something which we really needed.

And so, if we were thankful for that, how much more should we be thankful to God for the gift of our greatest need of all? But what is that greatest need?

To answer that we can go back to just before the birth of Jesus, at Christmas (another time of course when we are often thankful for gifts!). Back then, a man called Zechariah predicted that Jesus would 'give his people the knowledge of salvation, through the forgiveness of their sins.'\*

So we can see there the essential purpose of forgiveness. It is the way to salvation, which is our greatest need. And if we move from Christmas to Easter, we see that salvation made possible by Christ's death on the cross, for the forgiveness of our sin, which we can receive by putting our faith and trust in Jesus.

Of course, forgiveness is something to be given and not just received. And that's not always easy, no matter how much we love those closest to us. But I believe that, if we've received and appreciate God's forgiven of us, it will give us the desire to forgive; even in tough circumstances.

Speaking of 'tough circumstances,' can there anything harder than having had a dear family member killed in cold blood? With that in mind, last Sunday in church we saw a video of just such forgiveness from a mother, who'd been able to forgive the killers of her son. As she said, even in the midst of her pain, she could still realise how much she had been forgiven much by God, over the years of her life, and so she was able to forgive those who'd cruelly deprived her of her beloved son.

I began today by looking at why many people in Britain, aren't seemingly that interested in the Christian message.

Ultimately, though, we canna change anybody else. But we are responsible for our own actions and attitudes.

So as we consider our own lives; may we be, ever more aware of our own need for forgiveness.

Let's seek the Lord for it and in thankful response, be willing to forgive others.

And we never know, as one hymn says, seeing such an example from us, may lead others around us to believe that the Lord lives.

\*Luke chapter1, verse 77