



PORTSOY CHURCH

FAMILY NEWS 11/5/25

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

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and will be repaid in full." Proverbs 19:17

Please give thanks for the vital work of Christian Aid and all who support it. May we pray for justice, peace and an end to poverty in the world.

Christian Aid Week: Christian Aid Week begins today 11th May. Envelopes will be provided for your donations next Sunday in the Church and available during the week. Please give generously.

Focus Magazine: The deadline for the June – July edition of Focus the church magazine is next Sunday 18th May. All contributions, articles and photographs 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.

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.

Monday Prayers: Our morning prayer meeting takes place every Monday at 8.30am in the Church Centre. Please join us for this short informal gathering.

Message from John Gow

Matthew 28: 16-20

In the passage we're looking at in church this week, the one in which Jesus gives the '*Great Commission*' to his disciples, he doesn't tell the eleven of them to go and build a monument in His honour. He doesn't send them out to prove His resurrection to the sceptics or to retaliate against the Romans who put Him to death, or the Pharisees that made them do it. No, what he does is he calls them to go and make disciples. He calls them to replicate what he'd done in their lives—influencing those around them, teaching them, baptising them, and shaping them, shaping them into followers.

God call us to do the same, but the important thing to know is that He doesn't wait for us to be perfect before calling us to serve. He calls us because we've encountered His grace and we're willing to follow. Discipleship isn't just about *receiving* God's love; it's about *sharing* it. It's about taking what we've received—the grace we've received, the forgiveness, the transformation—and passing it on to others.

We might hesitate when we hear Jesus' command to "*Go and make disciples.*" We might feel unqualified, we might feel inadequate, the chances are we're not sure about where to begin, or how to go about it. But just like the first disciples, we're not being sent out alone. We're sent in the

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strength and the presence of Jesus, of God, we're empowered by His Spirit and sustained by His love. This mission to make disciples, it's not based on our own abilities or confidence—it's fixed in the truth that He goes before us, that He walks beside us, that He never leaves us.

This promise is part of a thread that's woven through the whole Bible. When Moses felt inadequate to confront Pharaoh, God reassured him in Exodus 3:12: *"I will be with you"*. When Joshua took on what, to him, seemed like an impossible task of leading Israel into the Promised Land, God said in Joshua 1:5: *"As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you"*. In Isaiah 41:10, God reassured his people, *'Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.'* Then there's Hebrews 13:5: *'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'*

So how do we live it out? How do we step into this calling of discipleship in our own day-to-day lives?

It starts, simply, in the ordinary moments. It starts in our homes, in our workplaces if we're working, it starts in our communities. It starts with conversations at coffee mornings, with acts of kindness that reflect Christ's love, with the willingness to share the hope we have in Him. Discipleship is a complicated word, it's a Biblical word, it's probably a scary word to most of us, but it's not about grand gestures or big words—it's just about faithfulness, that's all. It's about living in a way that invites others to see God and Jesus through us.

We're not all called to stand on a mountaintop and preach to crowds. We might not all be called to faraway mission fields. But we *are* all called to follow Jesus—to live in His grace, to share His truth, to love with His compassion. And the beauty of it all is that we don't need to have everything figured out before we do. We just need to be willing, that's all. We just need to say *"Yes, I'll go."*

So as we take up this calling, as we carry out into the Great Commission, we can carry it out holding onto the truth that God is with us. We can do it in the assurance that His presence sustains us, His authority empowers us, and in the knowledge that He'll be with us as we do.