

Focus on Fetteresso 10th May '09

The Christian Aid Concert takes place on Saturday 16th at the Town Hall at 4pm. Tickets can be obtained from the church office.

Grief-Share is to be set up later this year and is a group to support those recently bereaved or suffering some kind of loss; anyone who feels they could help as co-ordinators or facilitators are invited to a meeting on Mon 25th May at 7pm.

The Minister's theme today was love. We heard a reading from the first letter of John 4:7-21. In this passage John stresses the importance of loving God and loving one another. Fyfe began by quoting the Beatles' song All You Need is Love – this is the romantic type of love, but there are other kinds, such as sexual love, maternal love, etc which are expressed in Greek with different words. However the love John was talking about was the feeling we have for God and that we should have for each other. John's letter was a response to dissension within the Church and he encourages us to walk in the light with God and fellow Christians, to confess our sins, and to love God and our fellow men rather than worldly things. Love of the world squeezes out love for God and it becomes a selfish thing. We need to be loved and we need to love, it is the life-blood; God loved us so much that he sent his son to us. Paul in 1Corinthians 13 talks of the supreme importance of love. John in verse 18 mentions the perfect love which expels all fear. What is the currency of the Christian community? It is love and forgiveness which we as a congregation hope will multiply; if we use bitterness and anger as the common currency then we will see bad things resulting. John was trying to encourage us not just to talk about love but to practise it; what does love look like in reality? For example, Christian Aid is about loving our neighbours, it is life-blood for us as well as for them because it puts us in touch with God. The practising of love requires a reverence of each other, Fyfe used as an illustration the holding of a bird in one's cupped hands – it needs to be held just securely enough to stop it from falling but not too tightly to crush it – similarly we need to hold each other with just the right amount of security, or reverence. We have to increase our loving activities so that our love becomes more perfect which is how God wants us to live.