

Welcome to Stonehaven Fetteresso



21st January 2021

Who is it that overcomes the world?
Only the one who believes
that Jesus is the Son of God.

1 John 5:5



Services at Fetteresso

Due to the current lockdown Fetteresso Church building is now closed. Worship will not take place on Sunday mornings until further notice.

**Online services and CDs of the service
will be available as usual.**

Would you like to take part in morning worship by recording a Bible Reading or prayer?

As of Sunday 17th Mark Lowey will be in place as our new Minister.

Unfortunately, as you know, we will not be able to hold church services. So instead we are going to revert to what we did last lockdown - with a recorded sermon supported by recorded music, readings and prayers posted on the Church website. Mark will be doing most of the preaching (he's starting a series on Exodus) - however we'd like to get other voices/faces into the mix - making recorded readings and recorded intercessory prayers.

Would you be willing to be part of a rota for recording readings for these online services. Ideally these would be short video recordings of you doing the reading, as we want folks to be able to see familiar faces. If you are pretty IT savvy you'll know how to do this already - but if not, but would still like to participate, we can show you how.

We don't know how long this latest lockdown will last - and so we don't yet know how many readers we will need - but if you'd like to take part could you please let the Office know - and we'll be back in contact once we have figured out a rota.

To contact the Church Administrator please phone Ailsa on
01569 730143.

The Yale lock on the main door into the hall has been changed. If you need a key for this door please contact Ailsa - the church administrator or Dick Jenkins.

Scottish Government sends message to churches

The Scottish Government's Communities Secretary, Aileen Campbell MSP has sent a message of reassurance to faith groups, saying that places of worship will be among the first to reopen when Covid restrictions are eased.

In her letter, Ms Campbell thanks congregations for their hard work to support local communities during the pandemic and says she appreciates "the significant role communal worship plays in supporting people's mental and spiritual well-being, and its importance as a lifeline for many in preventing social isolation and loneliness".



Aileen Campbell's message to faith communities

I am writing to Scotland's diverse faith and belief communities about the new regulations instructing places of worship to close for both communal and individual worship (as part of the latest Covid Level 4 restrictions). I appreciate how hard this is for faith communities and want to assure you that places of worship will be amongst the first sectors to be seriously considered for any easing of restrictions.

I would like to thank you all for the measures you have put in place to protect and support your congregations since the first lockdown in March 2020, and for all of the work you continue to do to help your communities through these difficult times.

Our response to the COVID pandemic has been guided by the principles set out in our Framework for Decision Making, and throughout we have always sought to reduce broader health, economic and societal harm. But we must focus on the necessity to suppress the virus, and this has led to some difficult decisions.

The latest and perhaps hardest of these decisions in relation to places of worship was the First Minister's announcement on 4 January that at this critical moment in the pandemic, rates of transmission in Scotland are such, particularly given the virality of the new strain of Covid, that places of worship would be required to close altogether for congregational worship and prayer.

Throughout the pandemic we have engaged with representatives from different faith and belief groups to discuss their concerns and frustrations about the impact of restrictions. We will continue to keep this important engagement in place, and to work with you all on how we can eventually lift restrictions and worship together once again.

We believe the latest public health measures, combined with the ongoing rollout of the vaccine are vital to our efforts to prevent our health services becoming overwhelmed, limiting loss of life and ultimately accelerating the return of our country to some level of normality.

I understand and appreciate the significant role communal worship plays in supporting people's mental and spiritual well-being, and its importance as a lifeline for many in preventing social isolation and loneliness. We do not want to keep these measures in place a minute longer than is necessary.

AILEEN CAMPBELL

Church members are encouraged to help select the next Moderator of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly is the highest court of the Church of Scotland.

The committee charged with the task of choosing the Kirk's ambassador at home and abroad for 2022-23 needs 15 members.

The important role is open to elders, deacons, and ministers of all ages.

Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, the current Moderator, speaks with Rev Julie Rennick, convener of the Nominations Committee, to highlight the importance of the committee's work.

It looks at the gifts, experience and qualities which are required for the post and prepares a short-list from among the recommendations sent to the Committee to Nominate the Moderator.

Members will meet with all people on the shortlist and select a nominee as Moderator Designate.

Once approved by the General Assembly, the new Moderator then goes on to chair the assembly.

Committee role a 'privilege'

Mrs Rennick, minister of Larbert West Parish Church in Falkirk district, said she has served on the committee in the past and described the role as an "honour and a privilege."

The deadline for nominations is February 7 and people interested in serving should email a completed nominations form available online at <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/VIDEO-Call-for-help-to-select-Moderator-of-the-General-Assembly-2022-23>

to **nominations@churchofscotland.org.uk**

Self-nomination is acceptable provided there is third party support as listed on the nomination form

Dr Fair will chair the committee.

Rt Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness QC (Jim Wallace) is the Moderator Designate for 2021-22.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to begin

Beginning on **Monday 18 January**, churches around the world will mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity over eight days.

This year's worship materials have been created by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland and are themed around 'Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit', (John 15:1-17).



The annual event, which first began in 1908, is designed to strengthen the ecumenical ties between denominations and encourage a sense of mutual support.

It is timed to run from the date commemorating the Confession of St Peter to the Conversion of St Paul, marked on 25 January.

Rev John McPake, who is the ecumenical officer of the Church of Scotland said: "At this particular moment in the life of the Church, and as we face the challenge the pandemic confronts us with, we affirm the significance of prayer.

"We recognise the truth of these words: 'Jesus Christ is our Mediator with the Father, constantly praying for us before the throne of God.' In response to the prayer of Jesus Christ, we offer our prayers.

"As we pray during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we live out our response to the prayer of Jesus that we 'may all be one...that the world may believe' (John 17: 21)."

Prayer for Christian Unity:

Thrice-holy God, we thank you for having created and loved us.

We thank you for your presence in us and in creation.

May we learn to look upon the world as you look upon it, with love.

In the hope of this vision, may we be able to work for a world where justice and peace flourish, for the glory of your name.

(From the booklet for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/73674/Week-of-Prayer-for-Christian-Unity-2021.pdf

Christian Aid

Each year Christian Aid provides the Go and Do action points

<https://ctbi.org.uk/go-and-do-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

for each of the daily reflections which link to the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice.

Social media

Show your support for Christian Unity by posting messages to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Twitter wall. To do so, add the #wpcuwall hashtag to your Twitter post (note there is a delay before they appear). You can also find updates about the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Twitter by following the #wpcu2021 hashtag.

January 2021 Prayer Focus

Go With God

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own
understanding; In all your ways
acknowledge Him, And He shall
direct your paths.**

Proverbs 3:5-6



In December our prayer focus was ‘Immanuel’ which means ‘God with us’. Jesus came into our world to reveal the Father God who loves us and longs that we should know him.

2020 was a year we shall not forget, although many have said they would like to, and we pray for better days to come in 2021. The truth is that we never know what a day will bring and none of us knows what lies ahead in 2021. The good news is that God does.

GOD KNOWS

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

From “God Knows” by Minnie Louise Haskins.

[ref: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Gate_of_the_Year]

God knows everything great and small that will happen to us each day. He sees the end from the beginning. When we seek him, no matter what happens he has promised never to leave us nor forsake us. God has already won the final victory and he continues to work his purposes out. Jesus instructs us in John Chapter 15 that we are to remain in him and that apart from him we can do nothing.

As we step into this year let us pray and remember, as individuals and as God's church here in Stonehaven, that no matter what, we are to 'Go with God.'

Some have commented that during advent they found it helpful to focus on and pray for the one thing listed each day, so for January we offer you the opportunity to do so again.

With the theme "Go with God " we offer a focus for your prayers.

- 1st. The UK as we leave the EU
- 2nd. Those working for cures for the corona virus and other illness.
- 3rd. World and local leaders
- 4th. The bereaved.
- 5th. Those who are alone.
- 6th. All who are moving home including Rev Mark Lowey and family.
- 7th. Those delivering or administering aid everywhere.
- 8th. Medical workers everywhere.
- 9th. All in hospital.
- 10th. Those with no access to medical help.
- 11th. Children and parents schooling at home.
- 12th. Those who have no access to education.
- 13th. The hungry.
- 14th. Rev Mark Lowey and his family as Mark takes up his post as minister at Fetteresso.

- 15th. Those still seeking a new minister.
- 16th. Those suffering from mental distress and anxiety
- 17th. Those in poverty.
- 18th. Those who run Food banks and those who need them.
- 19th. Social workers.
- 20th. Broken families
- 21st. Those with no family.
- 22nd. All who live or work in care or nursing homes.
- 23rd. Those who live in fear.
- 24th. All who face conflict.
- 25th. The armed forces everywhere.
- 26th. Those separated from loved ones.
- 27th. Those who have lost jobs and are in need of work.
- 28th. Those who are ill.
- 29th. Our planet and its care.
- 30th. Children everywhere.
- 31st. Ourselves

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy
and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13

Contact Us

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Stonehaven Fetteresso Church



www.fetteresso.org.uk



Minister

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Youth Worker:

Matt Sinar: matt@fetteresso.org.uk

Safeguarding Coordinators:

Janice Boggon 07711 583317
Gloria Potter 01569 740352

Church Administrator:

Ailsa Conkey
The office is currently closed please
phone 01569 730143

Grampian Coronavirus Assistance Hub

Reading for
Sunday 24th January
Exodus 2:11 - 25.

If **you** need
help, support
or advice.

Anywhere in Aberdeen,
Aberdeenshire or Moray.

0808 196 3384
www.gcah.org.uk

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