

Welcome to Stonehaven Fetteresso



Life of Worship • Life of Love • Life of Service

25th September

And we know that in all things
God works for the good
of those who love him,
who have been called
according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28



DailyVerses.net

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

If you have a pastoral emergency please contact
Mike Barfoot on 01569 766588.

Sunday Service Reading for Sunday 27th September:

Matthew 21:23-32

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

²³ Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

²⁴ Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵ John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

²⁸ “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

²⁹ “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

³¹ “Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

Contact Us

Bath Street

Stonehaven

AB39 2DH



01569 730143



office@fetteresso.org.uk



Stonehaven Fetteresso Church



www.fetteresso.org.uk

Interim Moderator

Bill Wallace:

williamfwallace39@gmail.com

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

Church Officer Rota

September

27th Janice Boggon

October

4th James Dickinson

11th Andrew Boggon

18th Don Wood

25th Janice Boggon

Grampian Coronavirus Assistance Hub

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

Anywhere in Aberdeen,
Aberdeenshire or Moray.

0808 196 3384
www.gcah.org.uk

www.gcah.org.uk

Join in prayer this Sunday with Scottish Christians

This Sunday (27 September), Christians across Scotland will join together in prayer at 7pm in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As with previous weeks during lockdown and the phased easing of restrictions, 14 Christian churches and organisations across the country, including the Church of Scotland, have co-signed the letter calling for prayer.

Scottish Christians have been continuing to answer the call to pray at the same time each week, and Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, has been taking part alongside them.

"I'm delighted to have read that in the last couple of months online searches for 'prayer' have increased dramatically," Dr Fair said.

"But reading about what prayer is and how to do it is only the start of it. After that it's time to actually pray.

"And what better than to join with brothers and sisters from across the nation at 7pm on Sunday to pray our way through this ongoing crisis. I commend it to you and look forward to being with you, in Spirit, on Sunday evening."

This week's letter accompanying the prayer, which is also available in Gaelic (a copy of which will be available here soon), states:

"For the second occasion, in the course of a journey that was now set to be much longer than originally anticipated, the people of Israel complain to Moses. At the heart of the complaint is the question: 'Is the Lord among us or not?' The first occasion is recorded in Exodus 16 where 'bread from heaven' is provided by the Lord in response to that complaint.

"Now, as the journey is set to continue for a longer period, a complaint is raised again. In response, the Lord calls Moses to go 'ahead of the people' and lead them to the place of renewed provision. In response, Moses leads the people of Israel to the place where water is provided in the wilderness (Exodus 17: 1-7).

"For the second occasion, in the course of a journey that is now set to be much longer than originally anticipated, we are being asked as the people of God to share, in the communities of which we are a part, a renewed challenge in relation to the Covid-19 crisis.

"We are not where we wanted to be on the journey and we cannot go back to where we started. At this time, the question we might well ask is this: 'Is the Lord among us or not?' As we go forward together, we ask that the Lord will lead us to the place of renewed provision, so that we can say, humbly and with thanksgiving: 'Yes, the Lord is among us!'"

We pray:

Living God,
We journey in hard places today
And in the company of many who are weary and fearful.
We journey in hard places
And we confess that we are weary and fearful ourselves.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Living God,
As you have heard our cry in times past,
Hear our cry renewed.
As you have provided for your people in times past,
Renew your provision today.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Living God,
You have watched over us
And brought us safe thus far.
You watch over us now
And we trust that you shall lead us to the place of safety renewed.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Living God,
In our remembering of the journey past,
We do not forget those who are no longer with us.
In our remembering of the journey past,
We do not forget the depth of the challenges we have faced.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Living God,
Go before us we ask
And lead us to the place of your presence.
Go before us
And bring us to the place where your presence is renewed.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

(continued on next page)

Lord God,
In our journey onwards,
May we know that you are among us.
At journey's end,
May we know that you have always been with us.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

AMEN

September Prayer Focus - Christian Aid & Nominating Committee

On our Bulletin we have already highlighted the work of Christian Aid .

During September we wish to focus on this and also the work of the Nominating Committee as they seek a new minister for Fetteresso Church on our behalf.

Christian Aid

In the wake of the terrible disaster in Beirut, the explosion claimed the lives of 150 people and injured over 5000 people. 750,000 people have been left living on the streets without shelter, food, or emergency medical supplies. Eighty five percent of the country's grain supply and medical supplies were destroyed.

Lord we pray for all the people who are suffering in the Lebanon, and in Beirut. We pray that aid will be focussed and co-ordinated and will reach the people in such dire need.

Lord we turn to you. Your love of all people inspires us to care for others. What can we do? There is an enormous amount of work to do. The devastation down at the site of the explosion and in the immediate surroundings is still very profound. Terrible economic crisis already affects the country.

Lord, we thank you for those who answer the call when you ask, 'Whom shall I send?' We are glad of the Christian Aid response of distributing food, water and hygiene disinfectant, clothes, mattresses, and blankets.

Christian Aid have asked that we pray for peace and comfort for all those suffering and assure us that in times of crisis acts of compassion, big or small can make a world of difference. So Lord we come asking this for the people of Lebanon. In your great love and mercy hear our prayers in Jesus name.

Amen.

Should you wish to contribute to the work of Christian Aid please follow the link to the Christian Aid, Lebanon Crisis Appeal

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/lebanon-crisis-appeal>

Nominating Committee.

The committee ask that we continue to pray alongside them.

Please uphold the committee constantly in your prayers before God.

Dear Lord,

Lord we give you thanks that you have always provided for us at Fetteresso.

We thank you and look to you expectantly trusting that you will again provide us with a leader.

We give thanks for the work of the nominating committee at Fetteresso.

We pray asking:

- that the next stages will be Spirit led and that the committee will be in accord during any interviews and decision making.
- that if a successful candidate has come forward that this will be clear to the members of the committee that this is Your choice for Fetteresso.
- that any successful candidate will also be sure of Your call to Fetteresso
- that you will bless the members of the committee with the wisdom, discernment and perseverance to undertake this task however long it takes.

May this be to your Glory and purpose for your people in Stonehaven. In Jesus name.

Amen.

Assessment 'Tool' for individual and group health risks

The assessment 'tool' below helps you to see how different risk factors may combine to give serious health complications should you catch the Covid-19 virus. It does not include the factors that may make you clinically extremely vulnerable, where you should be following the guidance for those who are 'shielding'. It includes the factors where there is significant statistical evidence but does not include any rarer conditions which you may have, so this only offers a starting point. You may want to discuss the results with your doctor or with those who have expectations about your involvement with church life.

Risk Factor		Total Score
Age	50-59	1
	60-69	2
	70-79	4
	80 and over	6
Sex at birth	Male	1
Ethnicity	Caucasian	0
	Black African Descent	2
	Indian Asian Descent	1
	Filipino Descent	1
	Other (including mixed race)	1
Diabetes & Obesity	Type 1 & 2	1
	Diabetes Type 1 & 2 with presence of microvascular complications or HbA1c \geq 64mmol/mol	2
	Body Mass Index greater than or equal to 35 kg/m ² online BMI calculator: http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-weight/bmi-calculator	1
Cardiovascular disease	Angina, previous heart attack, stroke or cardiac intervention	1
	Heart Failure	2
Pulmonary (lung) disease	Asthma	1
	Non-asthma chronic pulmonary disease	2
	Either of the above requiring oral corticosteroids in the last year	1
Malignant neoplasm (cancer)	Active malignancy	3
	Malignancy in remission	1
Rheumatological conditions	Active treated conditions	2
Immunosuppressant therapies	Any indication	2
Total Score		

Assessment 'Tool' for individual and group health risks (cont'd)

This should be read alongside the full text of the Church of Scotland's "Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Reopening of Church Buildings" which includes guidance about minimising risks in the church context, and other government or local advice about staying safe. We are not claiming medical expertise in sharing this way of scoring your risk but giving a way to show how serious catching the virus may be for you or the groups using your church building(s).

Circle the score next to each one that applies to you and add up your score.

A score of under 3 indicates a lower risk, but you should still be following the guidance for staying safe.

A score of 3-5 suggests a greater risk and you should consider ways of reducing your risk by taking additional precautions or avoiding some activities.

A score of 6 or more suggests a high risk and indicates that you should continue to work or participate in church life from your home.

Dear Member of Fetteresso Church,

Reopening the Church after Lockdown

I hope that you will forgive the impersonal form of address, however, as events are moving fairly rapidly at present, writing to you in this way allows us to get in touch with our entire membership more quickly.

As you probably know, the Scottish Government has now permitted churches to open for private prayer and, on 9th July – it announced that, from the 15th, church services may begin again subject to appropriate restrictions to avoid the spread of the virus. You may have received a call from one of our elders about this already – but, as the situation is changing – we felt that it was also sensible to write to everyone and let them know what we are planning.

We are planning to re-open the church in the following steps.

On Sunday July 12th and July 19th the church will be open for private prayer only between 10am and 12noon.

From Sunday 26th July two short church services will be held each Sunday, the **first** at 9.30am and the **second** at 11am.

The reason why we are putting on two services on Sunday mornings from the 26th is that the social distancing and Scottish Government church service capacity requirements, a maximum of 50 people at a Sunday morning service, put a significant limit on how many people we can fit the church and, from what we understand from the phone survey of members which we have recently done, more people would like to come back to church at this stage than we can fit into one sitting.

We really don't want to have to turn people away at the door because our numbers are too great – so, to help us to manage that risk, we would like to ask you, if you are coming to church – to try to come to the following services:

- People with surnames A-K, please try to come to the 9.30am service
- People with surnames L-Z, please try to come to the 11am service.

You don't have to take this as a strict rule – if your allocated service time is really inconvenient for you – then please come to the other one – but we hope that you will be understanding and only do this if you really need to.

We also need to advise you that there will be a number of safety precautions which need to be adhered to.

On entering the building, you will be asked to:

- Put on a face covering – ideally bring your own – but we will have a few spares available.
- Wipe your feet on the mats provided.
- Give your name and telephone number to the person registering entry at the door (this is to allow for contact tracing if anyone in the congregation later shows COVID symptoms)
- Disinfect your hands with alcohol gel for 30 seconds.

All these steps may take a bit of time – so you may have to wait before you can enter the church. We hope, however, that you'll understand the need for this and be patient.

Once in the building we ask you to:

- Observe social distancing rules (2 meters) at all times – the chairs will be spaced out – but please only sit with someone if they are a member of your household
- Do not touch your face and only touch the surfaces you need to.
- Please **don't sing**. Although there may be music played at some points – congregational singing is not allowed under the guidelines.

You should also be aware that:

- There will be no activities for the children.
- The service will be recorded on video (although the camera will only be pointed at those leading the service).
- Once recorded, the video will be put on the “church at home” site so that those who are unable to make it to church can share in what we did.
- Scottish Government advises that those who fall within the extremely clinical vulnerable group, have been shielding, are unwell in any way, are living with anyone with Covid-19 or have either themselves or a member of their family been asked to self-isolate, should not attend.

Once the service is over we would ask you to:

- Leave by the EAST door (the one on the right of the church as you look at the organ).
- Leave promptly (we will need to clean the church after you go).
- Continue to observe social distancing restrictions (this may also mean that you need to wait a bit to exit the church)
- Disinfect your hands with the gel provided.
- Keep your face covering on until you have left the building.

Sadly, we will not be able to serve coffee and tea after the service. You should also be aware that the church hall will be locked – and therefore **access to the toilets will only be available in an emergency.**

I hope that you understand the need for all these precautions. Our primary purpose in re-opening the church is to allow us to worship God again together after the long months of lockdown. With no singing and no children it won't feel very much like the Fetteresso Church that we have grown to love, but our hope is that a good number of us will still be able to assemble, despite the restrictions.

If you don't feel free to join us again under these circumstances, we fully understand. We want to remain **one** family under God, even if we worship apart. For that reason we will be continuing our "Church at Home" weekly on the website, **Fetteresso.org.uk**, and Matt will continue to be posting activities and worship content for the Children and Youth (and those young at heart!).

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours faithfully,

James Dickinson

Session Clerk