

Welcome to Stonehaven Fetteresso



Life of Worship • Life of Love • Life of Service

26th October

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple
and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

1 Corinthians 3:16



Remembrance Day Services 8th November

On Remembrance Sunday the first service will take place
at **9.30am** as usual and will include a time of silence.

The second service will start at the earlier time of
10.55am to allow for the silence at 11am.

SOLE NOMINEE PREACHING

We are delighted to be able to confirm that Rev. Mark Lowey will be preaching as sole nominee in Fetteresso Church on Sunday 15th November. As usual there will be two services (one at 9.30am and the other at 11.00am) and following this there will be a vote of the Congregation.

This week we will be sending out a letter to all members of our congregation with further details about these services and how to access them remotely if you cannot attend the service. The letters also contain information about the process of voting and proceeding to the Call, as well as ballot papers to allow you to vote on the nomination, even if you are not able to attend the church services. We would greatly appreciate it if as many members as possible could cast their votes, as it is a way of showing congregational support for the incoming Minister.

If you have not received your letter by
November 9th, please contact the office.

office@fetteresso.org.uk

01569 730143

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

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

Opinion - Christmas might look different this year but its meaning remains the same

Christmas this year might feel very different to what we're used to due to ongoing global pandemic challenges.

Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, convener of the Faith Impact Forum, reflects on how the true meaning of the Christmas story will never change and it is principally about hope for a better tomorrow.



"This coming Christmas could be seen as an opportunity to give everyone the perfect 'excuse' to reassess how we mark the celebrations whether as a faith festival or simply as a 'holiday'." Vey Rev Dr Susan Brown

"Yesterday's announcement from Scotland's National Clinical Director, Professor Jason Leitch, has already given rise to a flurry of wise-crack responses doing the rounds, such as: "the only way to 'do' Christmas this year is to kill the Turkey and have 20 round for the funeral."

Sadly, even that would not necessarily mean people could sit down to eat together since the 20 refers to the number allowed to attend the suitably distanced, mask-wearing service.

Wakes, like every other social gathering in restaurants and hotels, are subject to the current hospitality restrictions.

But you get the point.

Hope

Part of what Christmas is about, is getting together with family or with friends to share food and exchange presents.

It is one of the reasons why so many people who live on their own, dread the season.

Without being a part of a larger gathering, those on their own, somehow feel excluded from the 'real' Christmas – even although Christmas has its roots in a tiny gathering of just two people and a baby without any of the table-groaning excesses we have come to associate with it.

I am not at all sure how Christmas, especially in Scotland, grew to be associated with bigger numbers, more gifts and enough food to satisfy an army after exercise.

The celebration of Christmas was abolished for us in 1640 and only became a public holiday for Scots in 1958.

That means that until relatively recently, our 'tradition' was for Christmas day to be a working day when children might receive a stocking with an orange, an apple, a 'penny' and a book. And that is within the living memory of many of our older people.

Now, however, Professor Leitch is telling us that in 2020, Christmas will not be 'normal' – that is it will not have all the people trimmings.

And I confess, I love having everyone coming for dinner, I love the midnight service too, on Christmas Eve, when everyone and their auntie weaves their way to church (some able to do so in more of a straight line than others!).

I love having only a few hours' sleep before getting up to get the turkey in the oven before the Christmas day service when the children are so excited and we have an impromptu nativity where they tell the story.

I love sharing a cuppa and cake with people before everyone goes home to do what they do at Christmas.

For us, it means present opening and then dinner, Usually for around 12-15 of us. Sometimes more, sometimes less.

This year it looks like less. A lot less, it may possibly even be just the two of us.

Isolation

And while for me and for many others that might be disappointing – in some cases deeply disappointing – it may actually transpire that it helps to take just a little of the load off families who find Christmas difficult at the best of times and who would face even greater pressures this year thanks to job losses or the reduction in their income as a result of the current pandemic.

This coming Christmas could be seen as an opportunity to give everyone the perfect 'excuse' to reassess how we mark the celebrations whether as a faith festival or simply as a 'holiday'.

That said, this year has been so psychologically tough for so many that the thought of Christmas too, being restricted, could be for some, the straw that breaks the camel's back.

People need things to look forward to – especially perhaps those who have been in isolation and who have missed significant events such as the birth of a grandchild or important birthdays, a family wedding, or who have even had to forgo attending the funerals of people they have loved.

To have now, such a major event in their lives, one they have been looking forward to, taken from them, could have devastating consequences on their mental health.

We cannot underestimate that impact.

If we do, it may well be one of the greatest mistakes we ever make.

We need, as a society and as communities, to look out for those around us.

We need to ensure that we take people's mental health seriously – so seriously that we actively look for ways of reaching out to those who feel so isolated, so abandoned, so swept to one side that they are in danger of losing a sense of their own worth and of the worth of life itself.

Bridge gaps between people and God

Professor Leitch is giving us due warning here.

In his call to prepare for a digital Christmas he is saying we need to find other ways of drawing people together.

In this respect we are better off than our Muslim sisters and brothers who found restrictions suddenly being introduced around one of their major festivals the night before that festival - literally as families had begun gathering and as they were preparing the food.

Those who had arrived from a distance, simply had to turn around and go back to their own homes again.

From a faith perspective, churches the length and breadth of the land are already beginning to think digitally and to shape ideas to help people hear the Christmas story across all sorts of digital platforms and social media – as we have been doing since March.

For us, the Christmas message, even in a time of pandemic, is one that is principally about hope.

The child who was born in a manger, came not so that some could feast.

He came to build bridges and to bridge gaps between people and God and between people and people.

The baby's birth is a challenge to the whole of humanity to dare to look beyond ourselves to the needs of those around us, in the knowledge that God thought everyone was worth sending his Son for.

This Christmas may not be like Christmases past, but it will still be Christmas. And we can help it to be good in a different way by caring beyond our own.

For all."

October Prayer Focus. Giving Thanks

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is Gods will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

This month we want to take the time to stop, pause, reflect. To focus on all that God in his amazing love and great mercy has given us at Fetteresso. As God's family in Fetteresso we can look back and see God's hand at work amongst us over many years. There is SO much to give thanks for.....

For our forebears who prayed things into being

The provision of land and building

Pastors to lead us

Music and those skilled in playing and singing as they lead us in praise.

We give thanks for 45 years of faithful service of Ian Gillis as organist and choir master

For those who prayed for us, taught us and guided us

For the vision and outworking of Here and Now coffee shop and book shop

For the vision and continued work of Far and Wide and the Food Bank

For our children, young people and each other

For Matt our youth worker

For all the times we met and shared fellowship with each other

For those we love and miss whom we cannot meet with right now

For those we love who have gone from us now

For new provision and those to come.....

For our town and community

For our schools and teachers

Our counsellors, dentists, doctors, nurses

For our bin men and gardeners

For our shops and tradesmen

For our fishermen and farmers

Our community groups.....

(continued on next page)

For our homes and families
For friends and neighbours
For our daily bread
For work and rest
Our beautiful landscape
For changing seasons.....

For life
For freedom
For good times and bad
For change
For God's word
For prayer heard, answered, awaiting
The list goes on.....

And in all of it Gods Amazing Love and Grace made manifest in Christ our
Saviour.....
....our Salvation!

What can you add? For what or for whom do you want to give thanks?
Let us be a people of thankfulness to our Mighty God who never leaves us
nor forsakes us and who alone is worthy of our Praise.

Thanks be to God!

Contact Us

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Stonehaven

AB39 2DH



01569 730143



office@fetteresso.org.uk



Stonehaven Fetteresso Church



www.fetteresso.org.uk

Interim Moderator

Bill Wallace:

williamfwallace39@gmail.com

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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

October

25th Janice Boggon

November

1st James Dickinson

8th Andrew Boggon

15th

22nd Andrew Boggon

29th Janice Boggon

Grampian Coronavirus Assistance Hub

Readings for Sunday 25th October

In Church:

Matthew 22:34-46

Online Service:

Matthew 22:15-22

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

Anywhere in Aberdeen,
Aberdeenshire or Moray.

0808 196 3384

www.gcah.org.uk

www.gcah.org.uk

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 | 1 |
| | online BMI calculator: http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-weight/bmi-calculator | |
| 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.