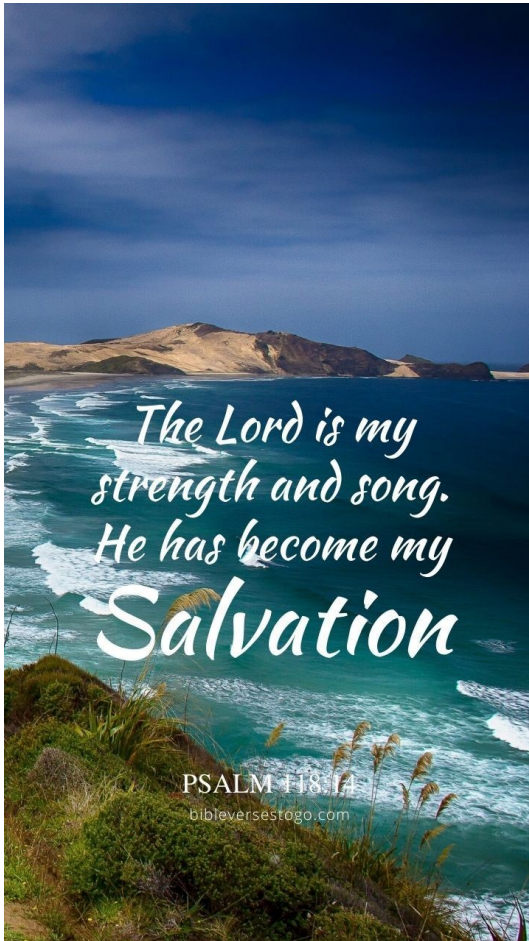


# Welcome to Stonehaven Fetteresso



*Life of Worship • Life of Love • Life of Service*

*5th December*



The Church Office will be  
closed from  
Monday 7th December to  
Monday 14th December.

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

for anything else please  
contact  
Robert Bell, Session Clerk,  
on 01569 767173



# The Choir (DIGITAL) Christmas Concert 2020

will be available from

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm**

on the Fetteresso Church Home Web-page

<https://www.fetteresso.org.uk/>

and will be available for the Month of December.

This is a compilation of all the very best of the  
Choir Concerts of past years.

Superb singing put to stunning graphics.

We hope that this will be a Blessing to You and Yours in what  
has been a difficult year for us all.

**Fetteresso Choir – Keep Singing!!!!**



FETTERESSO CHURCH

# The Vote

The result of the vote to call Rev. Mark Lowey as minister was

268 YES to 2 NO,

an overwhelming 99.3% call. The Rev. Lowey has been advised and is delighted to accept the position. It is hoped that his induction service will be mid-January. More details to follow. As session clerk I announced this result at 9.30 and 11 am services on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

James Dickinson (returning officer) and I also announced that the names people who had signed individual mandates have been collected in the Call, which is a letter to be sent to Mark asking him to be our Minister. This list contains 244 names of those who sent in individual mandate forms allowing us to sign the Call on their behalf. Any one who did not send in a mandate form can still add their name to the Call by signing it in person. The Call will be available for signing in church on the next two Sunday mornings (6th and 13th December). Children and non-members can also sign an attachment, saying that they concur with the Call.

Robert Bell, Session Clerk

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 Christians join in prayer on second Sunday of Advent

This Sunday (6 December), as the season of Advent continues, Christians across the country – and further afield – will once more join together in prayer at 7pm in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As with previous weeks during lockdown, 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.



“There are some things which make sense for a certain period of time but which come to a natural conclusion - such as clapping for carers during the spring lockdown. Prayer isn’t one of them,” Dr Fair said.

“The Apostle Paul encourages us to ‘pray without ceasing’ and Jesus himself offers parables where persistence in prayer is lauded.

“It can be hard to keep going when there’s no end in sight; much easier when the finishing line comes into view. In the case of the pandemic, it still feels as if there’s no light at the end of the tunnel.

“All the more reason then for God’s people to continue faithfully in prayer. And even better when we can pray across the whole of the Church, unrestricted by denominational divides.

“If Sunday at 7pm is in your diary, keep it there. Thank you. If it hadn’t been, it would be great to have you involved. It matters that we pray.”

This week's letter accompanying the prayer, which is also available in Gaelic states:

“‘Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.’ God speaks and the word spoken is a word of comfort to the people of God. The word is spoken to those who feel that they are powerless and to those who are wearied and exhausted by all that they have endured.

“Thereafter, the words of Isaiah take us out into the wilderness and, if we listen with open hearts, we will find ourselves in that place and hear a voice crying out: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.’”

“Even in the wilderness, we are called to prepare so that, in times to come, we might see the presence of God renewed in our midst. (Isaiah 40: 1-11)

“The words are taken up again in the beginning of the Gospel of Mark as a messenger announces the coming of Jesus Christ. In every age, and in every time, the words resonate if we listen with open hearts. (Mark 1: 1-8)

“God speaks and the word spoken is a word of comfort for our age and our times. We embrace and hold fast to the word spoken to us through our Saviour Jesus Christ.”

## *We pray:*

Living God,  
In this season of Advent,  
Speak to us words of comfort.  
Speak that we might hear  
And, as we do so, find comfort and strength renewed.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God,  
In this season of Advent,  
Speak to us as we read the signs of the times.  
Speak, that we might understand the times,  
And know, even now, your presence restored in our midst.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God,  
In this season of Advent,  
Speak to us in the wilderness.  
Speak, even in the hard places,  
And teach us to mark out the places where you have met with us.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God,  
In this season of Advent,  
Speak to us that we might learn of the rough ground made level.  
Speak of the rugged places made plain  
And of the time when we shall hear it proclaimed again that the Lord is  
coming!  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God,  
In this season of Advent,  
Speak to the lonely and to the bereaved.  
Speak to the anxious and to the fearful  
And carry us as the shepherd carries the lamb, even Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

AMEN

# December Prayer Focus



All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet:

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,  
and they will call him Immanuel -  
which means “God with us”.

*Matthew 1v.22-23*

December sees us enter advent, the time when we remember and reflect on our Saviours coming to earth as Immanuel - God with us.

As we celebrate Christ’s birth, the Christmas season is normally a time when we spend our days ‘being with’ family and friends. Yet this has been a year in which we have, for much of the time, been unable to ‘be with’ others.

While we may not be able to celebrate in the same way this year, we invite you to join us as we go through advent and the Christmas season, to take a few moments each day to ‘be with God’ and to give others the present of your presence in prayer.

Father God as we come into your presence, we give you thanks for the gift of your son 'Immanuel ' and ask that you will be with :

- 1st. The lonely and those who live alone.
- 2nd. All who are ill with Covid.
- 3rd. The unemployed.
- 4th. The abused and neglected.
- 5th. World Leaders
- 6th. Those struggling with mental distress
- 7th. Young people seeking careers and employment.
- 8th. The bereaved who mourn loved ones.
- 9th. All who are hungry.
- 10th. Those in countries at war.
- 11th. All who are in prison.
- 12th. Doctors, nurses and medical staff.
- 13th. Those working in Aid agencies.
- 14th. Those struggling with substance abuse and addiction.
- 15th. All who live in fear.
- 16th. Children who are orphans.
- 17th. Those who have been a source of hope and encouragement to you.
- 18th. All who are forced into slavery of all kinds.
- 19th. Those imprisoned for their faith.
- 20th. All who fight for truth and justice.
- 21st. Those who have blessed you and helped you grow.
- 22nd. Those whose crops have been flooded.
- 23rd. All refugees.
- 24th. The homeless.
- 25th. New-borns and new parents.
- 26th. The elderly.
- 27th. All full time carers at home.
- 28th. Those who need hope.
- 29th. The terminally ill.
- 30th. Those in financial difficulty.
- 31st. All working on Covid vaccines.

May God bless you all this Christmas and  
may you truly know His presence with you.  
Amen.



# Kirk's Advent calendar to bring 'Bright Hope For Tomorrow'

The countdown starts as Advent begins on Sunday 29 November running until Thursday 24 December. This year, people from across the Church of Scotland are joining together to look forward to 'Bright Hope For Tomorrow' through our Advent Calendar.



Advent will be marked with a mixture of stories, videos, reflections and prayers from congregations.

Meaning 'coming' or 'arrival', Advent is a time of prayer and preparation for the coming of God's Son. It is also a time when many look outwards to the needs of others, spreading joy with friends, families, local communities and further afield.

This year will feel very different to previous years, as Covid-19 restrictions continue across Scotland limiting our opportunities to meet and worship in person. However, we hope that our Advent calendar will help spread a little hope and joy during these dark days.

# Bright Hope For Tomorrow

Bright Hope For Tomorrow is the theme of the Church of Scotland's 2020 Advent Calendar, based on the lines 'Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow' from the hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
"Great is Thy faithfulness, " Lord, unto me!

## *Sharing faith, joy and love*

On Sunday 29 November we will get things underway with an introductory video on our website from the Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, and will then continue on Tuesday 1 December through our next four weeks. We invite you to sign up for a daily email or check our online Advent Calendar for some daily inspiration.

Throughout the season we'll bring you stories that highlight how church members around the country and further afield are planning to celebrate the birth of Jesus and sharing their faith, joy and love.

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, invites everyone to share in this year's Advent.

"We're facing up to what will be a very different Advent but perhaps, therefore, it's all the more important that we travel through it together. The Church's Advent calendar gives us an opportunity to do just that," Dr Fair said.

"You can sign up so that each day of Advent you'll get a notification for that day's instalment, whether it's a reading, prayer, video message or a short reflection.

“I’d like to encourage as many folks as possible to share in this. Pausing together each day in an otherwise hectic schedule is crucial for our own well-being and for our sense of oneness. May the result of it be that we are truly ready for Christmas when that time comes.”

This year for our daily Advent offerings we have collected moving, thought-provoking and encouraging stories sourced from our Church of Scotland congregations. They will include:

Inspiring stories and reflections - of creative events and personal experiences from individuals and groups across the Kirk.

Videos - Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair will introduce Advent, followed by a few extra surprises throughout the season.

Prayers - a selection of prayers from people from across the Church.

Sign up for your daily reminder

You can sign up for a daily reminder email straight into your inbox with a link to that day’s Advent window.

To sign up please go to this webpage:

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2020/Kirks-Advent-calendar-to-bring-Bright-Hope-For-Tomorrow>

Or on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/churchofscotland/>

## Get involved

We'd be delighted for churches to share with us how they are looking forward to Bright Hope For Tomorrow. We will share as much as we can on the website and across our social media channels.

Have you got your own stories and photos to share? Please email our Media Relations address at:

[mediarelations@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:mediarelations@churchofscotland.org.uk)

You can also tweet us: @churchscotland,

find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/churchofscotland/>



This year, more than ever, Christmas is going to feel different for people.

2020 has been a very different year, already people are feeling anxious about where we might be by December in terms of Covid-19. Already people have been drawn in by circumstances both near and far with issues such as Black Lives Matter, climate change, loneliness and the situation of refugees. Yet as Christians, Christmas should be seen as a time of hope, of expectation and of looking forward.

We recognise that many of us feel we are living in a 'strange land' at the moment and sometimes life does not feel just quite as it was – thus the feeling of being a 'stranger'.

Alternativity began with a belief in two concepts often hidden during Advent: Just God, Simply Christmas. Over the years it has looked at ways in which to keep the meaning of Christmas true to the original story yet not forgetting the celebration. It has tackled pertinent issues with a wider ethical, moral and global perspective through the lens of justice.

To watch the first Video please go to:

<http://alti-advent.org.uk/week1.html>

Main page: <http://alti-advent.org.uk/>

## November Prayer Focus - God's Direction & Peace

Last month our prayer focus was 'Giving thanks'. As God's people here at Fetteresso we looked back and recounted the many ways God has blessed us over the years.

As we look ahead in this month of November we give thanks for God's continued provision, for new beginnings, and we seek His direction for the way ahead.

We give thanks for our new Director of Music Gordon Cooper and welcome him amongst us on Sunday the 1st.

We also give thanks that on the 15th we will welcome Rev Mark Lowey our Sole nominee as he comes to preach to us.

In this month of November we once again look back in thankfulness as we remember all those who bravely fought in past wars paying the ultimate sacrifice with their lives for our freedom and peace.

Jesus our Saviour and Lord also came into our world and paid the price through his death on a cross for our freedom from sin and death. When Jesus rose again he defeated death and he promises that through faith in him we can have new life, reconciliation and peace with God.

At a time of great uncertainty in our world, we give thanks that nothing is uncertain to God for he knows and holds the future and our peace is found in him.

### **Jeremiah 29:11-13**

**For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.**

*Father God,*

We look to you our provider. In the midst of unsettled thoughts and puzzling anxiety we search for peace.

We look to you the only bringer of Peace, our master, our Lord.

**And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9.6**

Lord peace seems so far away in the world today when disasters and conflict and bad news dominate the headlines, and our personal lives are full of trouble.

**I have told you these things so that you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world. John 16.33**

At times we cry out - Why Lord? The unrest, the fighting, the destruction of what you have made. Lord, we cannot understand what is going on in our world today.

**And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4.7**

We sense you are there Lord because you love us so much and you promise you would never leave us in this world all alone.

**‘Though the mountains be shaken, and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed’ says the Lord, who has compassion on you. Isaiah 55.72**

Lord we repent of our part in causing pain or strife or damage, please forgive us.

**Turn from evil and do good, seek peace and pursue it. Psalm 34.14**

Lord we want to do this but, we are not strong.

**The Lord gives strength to his people, the Lord blesses his people with Peace. Psalm 29.11**

Lord we praise your Holy name, our redeemer lives, and he saves us, Lord you are indeed our God and we are your people. We say Shalom.

**Let the Peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Since as members of one body you were called to Peace. And be Thankful. Colossians 3.13**

Father God, direct our steps and lead us on as we seek to make you known in Stonehaven. Guard and guide us through this pandemic and grant us your peace.

**Hebrews 13:20**

**Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

## 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

### December

6th James Dickinson

13th Andrew Boggon

20th Elaine Kinninmonth

27th Andy Lorimer

## Readings for Sunday 15th November

### In Church:

Isaiah 40: 1-11

### Online Service:

Isaiah 64: 1-9

## 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**

## 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 <sup>2</sup>	1
	online BMI calculator: <a href="http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-weight/bmi-calculator">http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-weight/bmi-calculator</a>	
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.