



St Mary's & Old with Teviot & Roberton

Joint newsletter February 2021

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

In our July 2020 newsletter, four months since the first lockdown began, I based my pastoral letter on that verse. I suggested back then that we were all experiencing some degree of weariness and heaviness as we lived our lives and sought to fulfil our responsibilities at the same time as trying to navigate the way ahead. Right into the middle of that experience Jesus' words were so relevant and helpful—“Come to me and I will give you rest”.

Are things any different now? Perhaps they are even more difficult as this pandemic continues longer than we expected. Yes, there is light above the horizon as increasing numbers of people are vaccinated. But there is still a way to go and there is talk of the continuation of social distancing and the use of face masks for some time ahead.

It is a test of our trust in God and of our patience and contentment. There is the obvious ongoing anxiety caused by the virus and the effect of the restrictions on so many aspects of life. There is also the impact it all has on our sense of purpose and on our relationships. If you like to be up and doing, getting things done along with others, or if you like to be out and about and interacting with people these are difficult days. So many of the things that were major components in our lives are just not there right now.

We need patiently and creatively to do what we can using the means we have. What a blessing technology has turned out to be in these days—our weekly services provided online and by CD or DVD, all the zoom meetings and other ways of connecting have been a lifeline.

But the limitations are genuinely challenging aren't they? We long for it all to end. And there could be a danger we will look in the wrong places, along the wrong paths, or to the wrong people for a way out, a means of coping, the stimulus we lack or the companionship we crave. Where, what, who might that be for you?

That's why I make no apology for sharing with you once again

Please contact me if you are anxious, or need help and prayer.

Rev Alistair Cook

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these words of Jesus. They still speak directly and deeply into our hearts eleven months since the first lockdown began in March last year.

For only in Jesus is true rest found. “Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest”, he says to you and me. As Augustine said, “You have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you.”

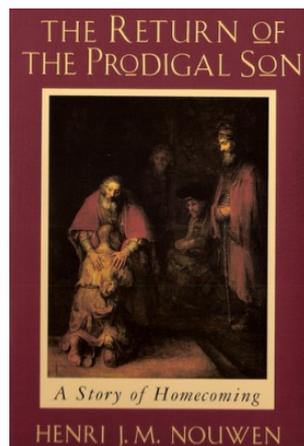
May you know and continue to experience the rest and satisfaction Jesus gives all the way through this pandemic and out the other side.

Your friend and minister



Lent gatherings

In January at our online services we thought about Jesus’ parable of the Prodigal Son with the help of Rembrandt’s painting of the story and Henri Nouwen’s insightful reflections on that painting. Following on from that, there will be a series of five Lent gatherings using material based on Henri Nouwen’s reflections. These will be on Zoom at 7pm on Sundays from 21st February to 21st March and are open to anyone who wishes to come along. To be sent a Zoom invitation link, contact Alistair by e-mail or phone.



trypraying

Perhaps as never before in recent times, people have ‘tried praying’! The global pandemic has raised so many questions, not least about our vulnerability and mortality, that many people have found themselves wondering about deeper

matters and not least that which is usually referred to as ‘spiritual’.

The *trypraying* initiative offers a simple seven-day format for those who wish to explore prayer for themselves. If you have access to the internet, here is a link to look at yourself and to share with others:

www.trypraying.co.uk

If you would like a *trypraying* booklet free of charge, contact Alistair.

Finance reports

The draft accounts of both churches show not surprisingly a reduction in income from freewill offerings and “open plate” but a rise in income from standing orders and cheques. Many thanks to those of you who have continued to support the work of the Church by paying your offerings by cheque, standing orders or bank transfer. We are happy for you to continue doing so!

Many of our larger expenses like maintenance of the ministry, insurance and council tax were “fixed” and did not reduce, while other costs like heat and light were reduced due to the buildings being closed for much of the year.

The Christmas appeal yielded a sum of £329 from St Mary's for Bethany Christian Trust and £748 from Teviot.

Those of you who give in St Mary's through the Freewill Offering Scheme will receive your envelopes for the year commencing 1 April 2021 by post in the next few weeks.

Details of the treasurers are:-

St Mary's & Old Parish Church:

James Peat, 31 Weensland Road, Hawick, TD9 9NW

Tel: 01450 374741

Email: jpeat@live.co.uk

Hawick Teviot & Roberton Parish Church:

Ron Smith, Ellistrin, The Courtyard, Westcote, Hawick, TD9 8SX

Tel: 01450 379973 or 07774113066

Email: rhs@ellistrin.com

Regular Zoom Meetings

Lent Gatherings (see separate article)

Sundays at 7pm on Zoom from 21st February to 21st March. Contact Alistair on acook@churchofscotland.org.uk

Sunday Club

Sundays at 4.30pm. For primary aged children. Contact Sheila on sheilamcook@btinternet.com

Prayer meeting

Thursday evenings at 7pm. Contact Alistair on acook@churchofscotland.org.uk

Wednesday Bible class

For S1 –S3. Wednesdays at 4.45pm. Contact Jo on joannemaybury@me.com

Bible Fellowship

No meeting in March. Thereafter, meetings are monthly on Tuesday at 7pm: 13th April, 11th May and 8th June on Zoom for now. Contact Carol cspeat@live.co.uk for further details.

Discipleship Explored

No meeting in February. Thereafter, meetings are monthly at 3pm on Sunday: 28th March, 25th April, 30th May, 27th June on Zoom for now. Contact Alistair for further details



PHOTO: JO MAYBURY

Upcoming services

All services are currently live-streamed only at 11am (and thereafter) at <https://teviot.online.church>

If and when we can meet again in church, there will be a service each Sunday in St Mary's at 10am as well as the in-person/streamed service in Teviot at 11am. Other possible in-person services are noted below in purple.

Feb 21st: 1st Sun in Lent (Matt 6:1-4 – true giving)

Feb 28th: 2nd Sun in Lent—new communicant (Matt 6:5-15 – true praying)

Mar 7th: 3rd Sun in Lent—Communion (Matt 6:16-18 – true fasting)

Mar 14th: 4th Sun in Lent—Mother's Day

Mar 21st: 5th Sun in Lent

Mar 28th: Palm Sunday (Zechariah 9:1-17 –The coming King!)

April 1st: Maundy Thursday—Communion (Mark 14:12-26)

April 2nd Good Friday 7pm in St Mary's if permitted

April 4th:Easter Day Celebration (Mark 16:1-8)

April 4th: Easter at Roberton 3pm if permitted

April 11th: Morning worship (Matt 6:19-24 – Where is your treasure?)

April 18th: Morning worship (Matt 6:25-34 – Why do you worry?)

April 25th: Morning worship (Matt 6:33 – What is your priority?)

May 2nd: Morning worship (Matt 7:1-6 – Who is the judge?)

May 7th: Morning worship (Matt 7:7-12 – The giving Father)