

**St. Margaret's Community Church of
Scotland Dunfermline**

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The words "one another" are found together 29 times in the New Testament and they include the following:

Love one another

Forgive one another

Pray for one another

Bear one another's burdens

Be devoted to one another

Regard one another as more important than yourself

Do not speak against one another

Do not judge one another

Show tolerance for one another

Be kind to one another

Speak truth to one another

Build up one another

Comfort one another

Care for one another

Stimulate one another to love and good deeds

Our Christian Faith is emphatically about relationship.

Our prime relationship is to God in Jesus Christ in whose image we are made. This is a relationship that God desires to have with us. It is a relationship rooted in love – God's love for us. It is "Parental" love – love of the deepest kind and highest order. It is love that we can both know and share.

It is though, through our relationships with other people that we are able to demonstrate and work out God's love. Think of the examples that Jesus gives.

God is a "giving" person. If there are poor and hungry people that we know of whether locally or internationally God would want us to show our love by using what resources we have to help them. That is love.

But what about people who don't like us? Jesus tells us that God is kind to even those who dislike or refuse to believe in Him. We are to show the same grace, love, forgiveness, kindness and pray for such people and do whatever we can to be of help to them.

So, back to "one another" – we live in a "one another" world. Look again at the list that I began with and ask yourself the following question – is this how I want other people to be towards me? Do I want other people to love me, forgive me, pray for me.....the list goes on?

The premise that we do for other people how we want to be treated by them is writ large in the teaching of Jesus and indeed the Bible as a whole.

As we enter 2021 let us renew our commitment to our faith not just by being supportive of the Church but by being supportive of "one another." I have no doubt [at least from my own personal experience] that this can be at times costly and difficult but nothing that is good comes without commitment and at times personal sacrifice.

2021 will hold, in the first part of the year, significant challenges for us as a Church and Community and so the challenge is to look out in all kind of ways for "one another."

Iain

Intimations

Services will be at the normal times on Sunday – Facebook will go on at 9am, Zoom at 9.45.

There is little doubt now that it is unlikely that we will be given permission to hold services until at least March of this year. This calls for patience and prayer until the vaccine becomes effective enough to allow us to return to a semblance of normality.

Zoom Service on Wednesday at 6.45pm where we are looking at the life of St. Paul. This is a series of reflections by Con Campbell with the filming shot in situ.

On Friday Gordon Brown is celebrating his milestone 70th Birthday. It had been a dream of Gordon's to have a Songs of Praise in his local church but this obviously cannot happen. Instead we are going on Sunday afternoon at 2.30pm to have a Zoom Songs of Praise as part of his birthday weekend celebrations – all are welcome to join.

HYMN VERSES

Gordon Brown has chosen our hymn verse for this week.

"I offer Hymn 536 - May the mind of Christ my Saviour - and the final verse [at least in CH3 &4]. I particularly like the verse as it is in CH3 where it is Hymn 432 –

May I run he race before me

Strong and brave to face the foe

Looking only unto Jesus

As I onward go.

Inspired, I believe, by Hebrews 12. I particularly like the imagery of the 'race' which for me is about the race of faith. I

see myself as a participant in the race. The route is lined by those who have seen and done it all before and they are there to cheer and encourage me and the other participants. Like any runner or athlete, I prepare for the race, and during it, by trying to jettison things [sins] that might slow me down or prevent me finishing. And to succeed try to "look only to Jesus" [CH4 has its as "drawing all my strength from Jesus"] who is waiting at the finish line to welcome us home. Quite an inspiring picture or image."

[If you have a verse from a hymn you would like to offer – even anonymously – just drop me a note or an email.]

**“Act as if what
you do makes
a difference.
IT DOES.”**

WILLIAM JAMES

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