

Cupar Old Parish Church

Where Everyone Matters

Newsletter 15 July 2022

Dear Friends:

I'm happy—and a bit nervous—to announce that the Session has agreed to welcome the Community in Cupar Café into the Old Parish Centre on Saturdays from midday until 2:00pm each week, beginning on 13 August. This local non-profit, community-based organisation provides a safe space for vulnerable people in the community. Immigrants, people with food insecurity, those with mental health concerns, people new to the community, those who are feeling isolated, and families wanting to connect with others. These and more are all served by Community in Cupar.

M&S in St Andrews provides food donations each week, and the organisation regularly invites other community agencies, such as Families First and Police Scotland, to share expertise and highlight available resources.

We will have the opportunity each week to come along as partners in this community ministry, to support the volunteers in the kitchen, to bring along an activity to share, such as knitting or a children's craft, and to engage as friends with those who are guests in our building.

As I said, I'm happy and nervous about this new endeavour. It's an exciting invitation for us to fully support people in need and welcome those who are on the fringes of our community. It will undoubtedly challenge us in new ways. But if we embrace it, there is the opportunity to

share the blessing of presence with others, and to receive the blessing of their presence with us.

I hope you will consider taking part in this ministry partnership.

Warm regards, Jeff

PS – Just a reminder that I am currently away on holiday until 27 July. If you have need of support, please speak with your elder or a member of the prayer team. You may also contact the Reverend Gavin Black, the minister at St John's and Dairsie [01334 209 010]. For administrative or informational matters, please contact Jean Martin [01334 652 100] or Liz Nelson [01334 655 077].

From Our Prayer Team

Janice: Janice.geddes2@ [btinternet.com](mailto:Janice.geddes2@btinternet.com)

Kenya's presidential elections are set to take place on 9 August. Please pray for peace in the run-up to the election and that people will be able to vote freely and fairly.

Please pray for safe travel for families as the holiday season begins.

The prayer groups continue to meet weekly through zoom. If you would like to join us, have a prayer request, or would like one of the prayer team to pray with you then please contact either Jeff Martin or Janice Geddes.

17 July: Worship

Please join us for worship this Sunday at 11:00 in the sanctuary and at 4:00 in the lounge of the Old Parish Centre. Paul's letter to the Philippians will be the basis for a hymn festival in the morning and a family friendly time of worship, craft, and song in the afternoon. A recording of the morning service will be available on our YouTube channel to watch at your convenience:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdOxFrZ_kg94DYogyIFAVEQ

19 July: Tuesday Café

Please note that our Tuesday Café will not meet this month, but will return on 16 August.

20 July: Coffee and Chat and Gardening

Jill, Coffee and Chat: 01334 655 528 or 07929 444 246

Arthur, Gardening: 01334 652 100

Stop in for a cuppa and a chat with friends on Wednesday morning between 10:00 and 11:15 in the lounge of the Old Parish Centre. All ages are welcome. You can also join the Gardening Crew to help maintain the grounds around the parish centre, gathering at 9:30.

Coffee and Chat: Change of Meeting Day

Coffee & Chat is changing back at the start of August (as from 4th) to a Thursday with outings on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Reflection from Angus Allan: Philip Doddridge Humphreys.

When we arrived in Whitehaven, Cumberland we settled down in our new home and then thought about attending a church. We were members of the Church of Scotland and logically should have gone to the Presbyterian Church. But strangely though, we went along first off all, to the Congregational in Scotch Street. The Minister was Philip Doddridge Humphreys, a direct descendant of the minister and hymn writer Philip Doddridge (1702 - 1751). At the church we were given such a welcome by the minister and members that we didn't move on and put our roots down there. Little did we know the profound effect this decision would have on our later family life. We became very much involved in the life of the church and quite soon I was asked to be Church Secretary. It was a privilege to be able to serve in this way. Over a few more years we had two sons, both born in Whitehaven, David and Malcolm. One evening, at the evening service, Philip took as his text "*He being dead yet speaketh*" Hebrews 11 : 4 (A.V.) It is a fairly well known text and relates to people who have died but whose memory lives on, mainly because of

what they have achieved in life. (eg. Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela etc.) The next morning, I had a phone call from Amy Humphreys. Philip had died suddenly. I immediately went along to the manse. I was shattered, but Amy although obviously shaken was taking it very calmly.

The church of course was plunged into a vacancy and we were helped greatly by Methodist lay preachers, very willing to fill in.

Philip Doddridge wrote over 400 hymns, 14 of which appear in Congregational Praise and one in Ch4, altered slightly and labelled "Scottish Paraphrases 1781".

Verse 1 O God of Bethel, by whose hand
Thy people still are fed;
Who through this earthly pilgrimage
Hast all our fathers led.

Verse 4 O spread thy covering wings around,
Till all our wanderings cease,
And at our Father's loved abode
Our souls arrive in peace.

Philip Doddridge 1702 – 1751 and John Logan 1748 – 1788

Bereavement comes to us all. Jesus sympathises with us. When he was called by Martha and Mary when their brother Lazarus died, we are told "*Jesus wept*". (John 11: 17-37, Luke 10: 38 -41). Tears are a natural expression of grief on the loss of a loved one. They cannot be and indeed should not be suppressed.

Prayer:

We thank you O God that you have been with your people down through the ages and are still with them today. We remember the words of Jesus:

"Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted" (Matthew 5: 4).

