



Newsletter of St John's Johnstone

April 2020 COVID-19 edition

www.StJohnsJohnstone.org.uk



Dear friends and supporters of St Johns,

It is hard to believe how much life has changed since March and the last Newsletter.

In this COVID-19 edition I am writing to wish you a Joyous Eastertide as we are now in the third week of the Easter Season.. Somehow keeping the feast at home by ourselves is so alien to everything we have learned to expect to do, with no Easter tea to share, no flowers to admire and no live music to raise the spirits week by week.



I know that some of you have been able to watch the online services that I have been making and it is good to record some of your voices and include you in the creation of our worship week by week. It is looking like this may go on for sometime yet.

As I have been reflecting upon this Easter Season, with its worry, sense of let-down, and lost hopes and dreams, I have been so much reminded of the disciples first experiences as they tried to 'get their heads around' all that had happened. For the disciples life had changed utterly and a new way of being had to be found amidst the resurrection appearances of Christ and his words of peace and comfort.

Peace and comfort, these are words I have certainly been praying for as I have spoken to many of you on the phone. Our life has changed in this coronavirus ridden world, and it is likely to going to change the way we do a lot of things as a society – and indeed doubtless as we operate as a church. It took the disciples time to work out what following Jesus meant after that first Easter morning; and we too are going to need some time to work out how we are church since the lockdown. Please pray for our Bishop's as they respond to the national guidance, as they try and chart a way ahead for all of us in the SEC.

May the Good Friday event of Coronavirus draw us into an Easter Day event of renewal and hope as the days and weeks pass by.

Rev Reuben Preston – Rector

"Finding Jesus with George Productions"

We have enjoyed and shared in Palm Sunday, Compline on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday of Holy week and Good Friday and Easter Sunday celebration. These services remain on the website www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk for you to go and watch and share with friends and neighbours. *If you cannot watch them online and you would like a DVD of the services please let Reuben know and we shall put something together for you.*



Beyond Freedom.....

Our Lent 2020 - **JOURNEY INTO FREEDOM** course has been given a follow on to take us to Pentecost. At the ISC in Glasgow material has been written to help us continue in prayer through the Easter Season. This has been put online at www.iscglasgow.co.uk/easterretreat.html

Please do follow it and again if you would like me to print the material and send it to you do let me know. And if you would like to give a donation towards the production costs you can send it in yourself (details on page 116 of the Journey into Freedom books) or pass your donation to Reuben by post. *The generosity of a donor F Szczuka has made the course possible so far, a donation of several thousands of pounds.*

Lent & EASTER APPEAL 2020



Glasgow City Mission – their work with the homeless and vulnerable. This year the Primus, as our interim Bishop, has called us to raise money to help Glasgow City Mission in their work with the homeless and vulnerable

of our region. Bp Mark notes that the homeless make their way to Glasgow and the help and support the GCM offers as people need a helping hand to get back on their feet after disasters in life.

If you can give then please send your donation to Reuben and he will ensure it is passed on. Thank you.

Pioneering in Renfrewshire

You will recall from the March newsletter that Reuben was coordinating the learning of the Regional Clergy to think and learn about being pioneers in ministry – doing new things to reach folk. Well after two successful sessions we had to stop meeting because of the lockdown. This is of course an ideal opportunity for all of us to think about how St Johns might pioneer in mission in fresh ways, especially when we receive instructions to start gathering again at some point. What ideas do you have to add to the future look of St Johns post-COVID-19?



What would you see St Johns doing in the community?

What would you value happening in our building?

What have you always thought it would be good to do?

Do you perceive in your prayer a prompting from God at this time for St Johns?



Coronavirus – guidance for churches says that we cannot use our buildings for gathering. This means no services, social events, wedding, baptisms or funerals in the building. We have been instructed to lock our buildings up and minister from home by phone and email and internet technologies. **BUT**

people have been asking about funerals. The situation is this. Church Funerals are not permitted. **As Rector I can conduct Funerals at the Crematoriums** following local authority guidelines and **I can conduct Burials at the Graveside.** The number of mourners is extremely limited currently 5 as I write this. Wakes cannot happen. Someone asked about burials of Ashes and the answer is wait until this is all over. We are not to gather and cause people to be put at risk for anything that is not urgent and immediate. Please call Reuben if you want to talk about any issues raised by the guidance.

Getting ready for the Summer holidays?



camping.....down the garden! George loved it with a bbq to try and pinch bits of food from. But Stephen didn't fancy it and remained indoors with his John Lewis

It is hard to imagine going away on holiday this year isn't it. In an attempt to get me away from the screen of the laptop I decided to have a few days away



Egyptian cotton sheets. It was a fun experience and aided by the fact that the wife from the house reached the tent so I could catch up on Radio 4 comedy shows..... You have to try and refresh yourself in these strange times!

Cleaning out those cupboards

I have to say that I am very concerned about the state of the cupboards of people at St Johns. Nearly, everyone I have spoken to on the phone has been clearing out their cupboards.....and discovering all sorts of out of date things. What is the most out of date thing you have found in your cupboards so far.... Curry powder sell by date of July 1992 – any one beat that?

Things to do in Lockdown

Well people have been having all sorts of ideas of what to do while we are in lockdown. If you are a celebrity you can burst into tears in your mansion on TV while another celebrity tells you off for it. But we ordinary church goers, what can we do.....

Here are some ideas....

1. Get dressed – wearing your pyjamas all day is a no no!
2. Sing along – even when you think you can't sing – no one is listening and anyway they can't come and tell you off!
3. Invent a recipe from food you didn't realise you had at the back of your larder.
4. Talk to the pictures on your walls
5. Phone a friend and have a chat about going on holiday – what it used to be like in the old days.
6. Take a bath, if you can get in it, with a GnT is even better!
7. Randomly call a number on the 'phone and say hello to a stranger
8. Read a book of the Bible you think you have never heard in church – out loud always works best and putting on voices for different people is fun too!
9. If you live with someone save all the moans of the day until 630pm for 5 mins and then have dinner
10. Spend time with your wardrobe and wear clothes that you *'wouldn't be seen dead in nowadays'* - no one will come to your front door!
11. "Take tea" – in cups and make little sandwiches – it helps to fill the afternoon!
12. Try using saucepans you don't like, and haven't used since the war.
13. Read a novel out loud, and learn to love your voice.
14. Be brave and eat that packet of dried figs in the larder – not all at once mind you!
15. Click on something you've never clicked on before if you have a computer and see what happen – good luck!
16. Wear loads of make up and feel like a *celebrity*, and if you are a man *try make up for the first time (?)* and feel *kinda tingly and awkward!*
17. Say grace – a long grace to put off eating – it helps fill the evening!
18. Iron your bed linen and knickers – it takes ages
19. Say a prayer for all those working in Care homes who don't have time to waste.
20. Think about people to buy a special meal for when you see them again.

Your Reference point for online Services

Weekly Provincial Service on Sunday led by one of our Bishops

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

Weekly Service at our Cathedral in Glasgow

<https://thecathedral.org.uk/>



Our weekly Sunday service with familiar voices from our congregations

www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Please offer to do a reading, especially if you haven't ever done one in church – we can record it down the telephone for Reuben to edit into the Service.

Remember the needs of the Church and the world in your Giving

Please continue to send your giving to St Johns to the Rector Rev'd Reuben Preston

29 Gleniffer Road, Renfrew PA4 ORD

and Reuben will ensure your cheques are banked "St Johns Episcopal Church". If you would like to give directly please use these details below



Account Name: St Johns Scottish Episcopal Church - Johnstone
Bank: Bank of Scotland, Johnstone.
Sort Code 80-16-53
Account Number 00356544.
Reference Your name or 'Lent Appeal' as appropriate

or you can give via PayPal at www.paypal.me/reubenjamespreston and put *St Johns* in the message box.



Sunday Worship Ministry

Rota in church suspended

please join in the online Services if you can

Sunday 3 May **Easter 4**

Readings are: Acts 2.42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2.19-25 John 10.1-10

945am online Service for St Johns & St Margarets

Sunday 10 May **Easter 5**

Readings are: Acts 7.55-60 Psalm 31.1-5,15-16 1 Peter 2.2-10 John 14.1-14

945am online Service for St Johns & St Margarets

Sunday 17 May **Easter 6**

Readings are: Acts 17.22-31 Psalm 66.7-18 1 Peter 3.13-22 John 14.15-21

945am online Service for St Johns & St Margarets

THURSDAY 21 May **ASCENSION DAY**

Readings are: Acts 1.1-11 Psalm 47 Ephesians 1.15-23 Luke 24.44-53

945am online Special Service— yes on a Thursday! It's a Feast of the Lord a Principal Holy Day – do you remember the old days when we all got the morning or day off school?!

Sunday 24 May **Easter 7**

Readings are: Acts 1.6-14 Psalm 68.1-10,33-36 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11 John 17.1-11

945am online Service for St Johns & St Margarets

Sunday 31 May **PENTECOST**

Readings are: Acts 2.1-21 Psalm 104.25-35,37 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13 John 20.19-23

945am online Service for St Johns & St Margarets

Available from about midday each Saturday are : the **Pewsheets for the week**, the **Intercessions Sheet for the week** and the **Reflection for the Sunday Service**

All our ONLINE Service are on the website www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

St Marys Cathedral Online Worship is available at

www.thecathedral.org.uk

And you can watch the National SEC Services from

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

Shout-outs and FUNNY Laughter corner.....

"A Message from Fiona Stewart who wishes everyone a very Happy Easter Season."

Finally I thought you might like these.....



The next Newsletter will be produced as we know more about how the land lies re COVID-19

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