

Prestongrange Church Dec. 2020

Dear friends,

For many, this has been a particularly hard year. Our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones or who have known hardship, suffering or anxiety. As we approach Christmas, we are glad that we will be able to meet with families and friends even although it will be in a restricted way and with some guardedness. For some, with the restrictions that have been laid upon us, this year has in many ways been a horrible year. However, the thing that we can be sure about is that God reigns in power and his love and compassion are still the same.



To the marginalised shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem, the angel said, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11). It was scandalous and ironic that God should intimate his Son's birth not to a king or those of importance but to such that were regarded of no account. God comes to the lowly. It was sinners and not the self-righteous that Jesus came to save (Mark 2.17). After all, he came as the Good Shepherd (John 10.11) and the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5.4) and so it was good that the shepherds got acquainted from the earliest with not only the shepherd who cared for them and would provide for them by also becoming "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1.29) The good news is that in Christ, we have a Saviour and friend; one who was born to die on the cross for our sin and to purchase our salvation; God's greatest gift for man's greatest need. God does not want us to be lost and physically distanced from Him. He doesn't want us to be without hope or purpose in our lives. He would rather that we know the joy of sins forgiven and receive the gift of new life and new beginnings that Jesus came to give us. Good news is for sharing and we have the best news that the world needs to hear.

As I write this, there are many uncertainties that face us regarding our place and role in the world. There are also real economic and financial challenges that confront us. There is still a great concern about the health of the nation in the face of the Covid threat and the pressure upon our NHS over the winter. The spiritual and moral state of our nation is a grave concern also. However, as a church, we are called to give a lead to our nation and "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6.8). That will involve having a humble, repentant heart for our own sin and shortcomings and seeking to share the good news of the Saviour's love and mercy.

Praise God that "Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine." In that love above all loves, may we find our heart's peace and joy.

Rejoicing in the Saviour's coming and eagerly awaiting His coming again. Moira joins me in sending our love to you.

Kenneth Donald

Christmas Eve. Service



Thurs. 24th Dec. 6.00pm.

In the church: For all the family.

Or join us on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89534301233?pwd=a3NPYk9TQUhwQUhyalA4aHdVcTZydz09>

Meeting ID: 895 3430 1233

Passcode: 302088

Or phone: 0131 460 1196 to listen in to all services (using ID & Passcode).

Friday 25th. 10.00 am.

On Zoom only



(40 mins. of celebration) as we give thanks to God for Jesus.

YOU ARE WELCOME.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9030493039?pwd=c3MvR3RjT0E1WIZBcThpODkwalVodz09>

Meeting ID: 903 049 3039

Passcode: Pgrange20

Zoom only services:

Sun. 27th Dec. 11 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting: Guest preacher: Bill Doyle.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9030493039?pwd=c3MvR3RjT0E1WIZBcThpODkwalVodz09>

Meeting ID: 903 049 3039 Passcode: Pgrange20

Sun. 3rd. Jan. 11a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9030493039?pwd=c3MvR3RjT0E1WIZBcThpODkwalVodz09>

Meeting ID: 903 049 3039 Passcode: Pgrange20



PRESTONPANS NATIVITY TRAIL

Find the nativity characters hanging out in local shop windows

Entry sheets available from the Salvation Army Shop



Prize draw on Christmas Eve
Winner announced on
Prestongrange Parish Church
Facebook

GOD IS MOST GLORIFIED IN US
WHEN WE ARE MOST SATISFIED IN HIM WWW.DESIRINGGOD.ORG [DESIRING GOD](#)

We remember our partners, Nirwan and his wife Deena in their work in the Himalaya Diocese of India. It was good to receive the following message from them a little while back:

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus's Christ. I am very glad to receive your email. Thank you so much for remembering us in your prayers. We are doing good here.

The situations here are somehow similar. We are also unable to come united for the fellowship in the church. So here the Sunday service is conducted in the different groups of 3 to 4 families. Nirwan is making Himself available to the different groups. Our earnest desire is to come together in the Church for the fellowship. We are looking forward to this day.

Despite of this current situation it is so wonderful to know that God is providing us the various resources to come together and worship Him.

With warm regards,

Nirwan & Deena