

Holburn West Church July 2020 Newsletter

Dear friends

An exciting time, as further steps are introduced to the easing of lockdown measures and a move, step by step is made towards “normality”! Of course, it is still very much, step by step.

In regard to the re-opening of the Church building for the gathering for worship, I can assure you that we are addressing the practicalities of this and we would hope to make some announcements about this in the near future. Regarding the variety of groups who, in normal circumstances, would be using our buildings, for these to resume, is probably further along the line.

Over the past six months, at Holburn West, we have enjoyed the company of Dr Vivek Chacko, who is now completing his Discernment placement with us. We wish Vivek well, as he continues to be attentive to God’s prompting in the kind of ministry he is being called to. One of the last books Vivek and I were reflecting on together was John Ortberg’s “If you want to walk on water, you’ve got to get out of the boat.” It’s a whole book, reflecting on the encounter recorded in the Gospel, where Peter gets out of the boat, and starts to walk towards Jesus, on the water. (Matthew 14:25 – 32) The themes it explores are very apt for the situation we find ourselves in: the uncertain waters of what lies ahead of us, the need to focus on, be inspired by and strengthened by Jesus.

The plan for the Presbytery of Aberdeen was formally approved by the Presbytery last Saturday 4th July. In my previous communication I sent out the part of the plan which refers specifically to the Grouping we are now in, the City Centre and West End churches. In the course of the next twelve months, we will be liaising with representatives from these neighbouring congregations, as we plan together a route for how we will develop ministry and mission collaboratively in a way that is relevant and meaningful to the people in the designated area of these combined parishes. It will be challenging, but I think also exciting and I hope, stimulating.

This is a very appropriate time as a Church, to consider and act prayerfully on what to hold onto and return to, what to discard and bring closure to and what to begin and launch into? Let me close with the wonderful words of St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians, chapter 3:

“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

I wish you a very enjoyable and rewarding Summer, as we make these tentative steps out of the boat of “lockdown”.

Take care and courage

God bless

from Rev Duncan C. Eddie