

Minister's Letter May 2021

'I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul' 3 John 1:2

Give thanks for vaccinations, which protect billions of people every day. Give thanks that vaccinations have the power to change the world. Take some time to reflect on the way that access to vaccinations and medical treatments often highlight the inequalities and injustices in our society. God of all life, who values all people, help us to ensure that everyone has access to life-saving vaccinations. Amen

Dear friends

Above is the reading and prayer designated for this past week on the Prayers resources from the Christian Aid website, marking "World Immunisation Week". It is very pertinent as we consider the plight of the large population of India, and the large number of people who have contracted the Covid-19 virus. Tragically, alongside this development, are the overwhelmed, limited medical resources, to deal with the scale of the spread of the pandemic. As the third letter of John makes clear, we are to pray and act for the well-being of body, mind, and soul of all peoples. We can do our part, which, yes, does make a difference. In the Scriptures we are exhorted to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you". That is so much more than a nice thought, a pleasant gesture. It is a means of living, of survival. If we don't express care for others, it will come back to bite us, one way or another. Different phrases express this fundamental truth: "you reap what you sow", "what you give, returns to you", "It's more blessed to give than to receive".

I invite you to give in support of our neighbours across the world during May.

1. To provide assistance through giving to the Disasters Emergency Committee, which at this point, enables a number of reliable charities, who have a great working knowledge of the areas in India, in order to provide the most appropriate assistance quickly and effectively
DEC Coronavirus Appeal www.dec.org.uk

2. To support Christian Aid Week 9th to 16th May, which provides valuable assistance to communities across the globe: practical, educational, a political voice etc.
www.christianaid.org.uk

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Michael and Carol Plowman, on the receiving of Maundy Thursday gifts from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. These were given in recognition of the valuable work and service Mike and Carol have done for the Church and the wider community. They have both been active in promoting the work of Christian Aid and of supporting the former partnership between the Presbytery of Aberdeen and the Presbytery of Blantyre, Malawi.

Thanks to many of you for your continued support to and service of Holburn West Church and the wider community.

God bless you, from Rev Duncan C. Eddie