

GLENCAIRN & MONIAIVE PARISH CHURCH

Church Family Notices Sunday 29 March 2020 fifth Sunday in Lent

We welcome Rev Mark Smith our new Minister

On behalf of the Presbytery of Dumfries & Kirkcudbright, the Presbytery Clerk, Rev Donald Campbell intimated to the Kirk Session of Dunscore linked with Glencairn & Moniaive Church that the Rev Mark Smith was inducted to the pastoral charge of Dunscore linked with Glencairn & Moniaive Church.

Minister contact details:

Rev Mark Smith

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A personal note from our new Minister:

Thank you to all who have made us feel so welcome even though we have not arrived physically.

Your emails, cards and telephone calls have been greatly appreciated and gratefully received.

I hope to be as 'present' as I can be – even if only in a 'virtual' sense. Thanks, too, to all who have worked so hard during the vacancy and continue to strive during this time of crisis to maintain the life of the church in Dunscore, Glencairn and Moniaive. I am sure that the tests of these next few months will build our bonds, stretch our faith and challenge our imaginative sharing of God's love.

Please continue to pray for each other, serve your neighbours and love one another.

God Bless & elbow bumps,

Mark

Worship during self-isolation and social-distancing:

Today there is a brief video-service available on YouTube – <https://youtu.be/MOzMOZ-WrO8> We are trying to find ways of ensuring that we can all continue to worship together as far as possible. We can use the internet (YouTube clips for meditations & reflections, Zoom video-conferencing for Sunday worship together) but I'm aware that some of you are not connected to such things. I will include the reading, hymns and a few thoughts on each week's CFN – please use these to join in the worship, prayer and study life of the congregations in whatever way you are able.

Today: Hymn 352 – O for a thousand tongues ... **Psalm 130** **Ezekiel 37:1-14** – The Valley of Dry Bones

Notes:

Ezekiel is called 'mortal man' or 'son of man' by God to remind him of his status before God.

How do you see yourself in relation to God?

God asks Ezekiel a 'trick' question – 'can these bones live?'

They are dry and dead, devoid of all signs of life, stripped bare and breathless.

Do you feel like that sometimes?

Ezekiel's answer is wise – 'only You know.'

Do you ever admit to not knowing or being unable to sort things out yourself?

Ezekiel speaks to the bones as instructed by God – even though what he says seems impossible!

After the bones are covered and the bodies re-built there is another stage – breath.

Ezekiel has to speak to the 'wind', the breath of God, to ask for life to come into the bodies.

What does this say about your need of God and His Spirit?

Do you want to have His life within you?

Just ask.

Hymn 596 – Breathe on me, Breath of God;
fill me with life anew,
that I may love the way You love,
and do what You would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with You I will one will,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
direct my heart's desire,
till every earthly part of me
glows with You Holy Fire.

Breathe on me, Breath of God;
so shall I never die,
but live with You the perfect life
of Your Eternity. Edwin Hatch (1835-1889)

Next Sunday:

PALM SUNDAY – 10.30am – Worship Together via Zoom video-conference

If you cannot join us 'virtually', make a palm leaf and wave it at 11am with us!

Further ahead:

HOLY WEEK – we will release a series of daily meditations and reflections via YouTube.

Watch for details and email updates with links.

Let us know if a DVD of these would be useful for you.

Offerings: Although regular services are not taking place in these unusual times, the costs of maintaining the ministry and the church buildings go on. For those of you who normally give an Offering on a Sunday, please consider how you can continue to make your gifts regularly.

- Pass on your envelopes or donations to your Elder, or to the Session Clerk or Treasurer.
- You could set up a standing order with your bank to make direct payments to the church on a weekly or monthly basis. Please contact the Treasurer.

For further information on what's going on in these unusual times please visit our website

www.glencairnpark.co.uk

Minister Rev Mark Smith

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**Items for inclusion in next week's CFNs to be sent to Lindsay Dunse by noon on Thursday,
by email to lindsay.dunse@btinternet.com, or by phone to 01848 200666.**

Website: www.glencairnpark.co.uk

Scottish Charity No.SC 014663 Congregation No. 080456