



PORTSOY CHURCH

WEEKLY BULLETIN 25/7/21

Welcome to the Church Weekly Bulletin which temporarily replaces our usual Church Family News (CFN) and will be our contact with both the Church family and the community until we can resume all our usual activities. A copy will be posted each Saturday on the community notice board outside the Church and available on the Church website on the CFN page. **John Gow will also arrange to provide copies to those in the community who cannot access on the website. If you want a copy to be delivered please contact him on 07941 511192.**

Weekly prayer topic

"Sell all your belongings and give the money to the poor. Provide for yourselves purses that don't wear out, and save your riches in heaven, where they will never decrease, because no thief can get to them, and no moth can destroy them. For your heart will always be where your riches are." Luke 12:33-34

Dear Lord, please help charities and churches that are in financial need. May new sources of funding and people of vision be found to help them to fulfil their mission.

Let's Talk

The next meetings of Let's Talk, our informal discussion groups, will be held next Wednesday 28th July at 3pm or, if you can't make that, on Thursday 29th at 7pm both in the Manse garden.

Thought for Thursday- new web-page

John's series of short video reflections "Thought for Thursday" can now be found on the Church website on the Thought for Thursday page as well as on the Church's Facebook page. The latest one is posted on the page as well as a link to all previous reflections.

Ways to join our services

In addition to joining us in Church on a Sunday morning at 10.30 you can watch the weekly service on our website at the same time or at any time after on our YouTube channel via the Church website. You can also have a DVD or CD delivered to your door (contact John if you would like one)

Weekly message from John Gow

We take light for granted, don't we? The sun comes up every day - well, it's there even we don't see it some of the time, although we've seen plenty of it this week. We flick a switch and on comes the livingroom light. We strike a match and light a candle. In the Bible, Jesus says, 'I am the light of the world,' but he also says, of us, 'You are the light of the world.' So which is it, him or us? Well, I think it's both - he's the light of the world and we're called on to be like him, to bring his light to everything we do and everyone we meet. But we shouldn't take that light for granted, sometimes we have to work at it.

Jesus also says we should be like salt. Now we all know now that too much salt isn't good for us. But in the right quantities, salt seasons, it adds flavour, it brings and influence to bear on our food. By comparing us to salt, I think Jesus is saying our influence should affect the lives of the people around us. Living within the letter of the law isn't sufficient, that just makes us like the teachers and

the Pharisees in the Bible, who had a slavish attitude to the law and expected everyone else to have the same. We should be taking our salt it out into the world to season it, to add flavour to it. But that doesn't have to mean making grand gestures, doesn't mean shouting from the rooftops. Salt changes things, but it changes things in a small way - a little salt can flavour a big pot of soup. A little of our salt can flavour a whole church, a whole neighbourhood, a whole community.

And to be like salt, we don't have to do spectacular things. To be like salt, we don't have to be successful in all areas of our lives. To be like salt, we just have to influence our wee corner of the world, give it flavour. Encourage those around us, be good to them, help them in every way we can. And if we don't? Well, salt that's still in the salt cellar is not much use to anyone.

It's like that with light. 'You are like light for the whole world.' Light can be many things - it can be there to guide us, it can be something to attract attention, like a welcoming window in the dark, it can be a warning, like a lighthouse. But what light always is, is visible. To be like light, we have to be visible too. To be like light, we have to shine at every opportunity. To be really like light, we can't keep it to ourselves. You don't cover a light with a bowl, as it says in Matthew's gospel, you can't conceal a lit-up city on a hill.

It's often thought that religious faith is a purely personal thing; keeping it between ourselves and our God. And it's true, faith *is* personal. It needs a personal decision by us, as to whether we believe or we don't. But we do well to remember that Jesus told us that we're not supposed to keep our faith to ourselves, we're not just to live by the letter of the law, ticking the boxes that make us a good believer. 'Your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do.' It's not a request, it's an imperative, it's a must. Your light must shine.

And to shine properly, we've got to share. Because what good does it do if we're not going to share that light we have that's shining in the world's darkness? If we don't share our faith? If we just tick off all the reasons that we think make us a good person, according to the rules, the laws, the commandments that we read in the Bible just so we can feel more comfortable or so we can feel superior to other people, it doesn't really amount to an awful lot, does it? We might be living in the light, but by not sharing it, we're not letting it shine the way we should.

Information

If you have any information or contributions which you feel should be included in the Weekly Bulletin please send to Ian Whewell ian.whewell@btinternet.com by Friday evening each week.