

Giffnock: the **I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH** Park Church

**CHRIST**

**WHO Strengthens ME**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020**

**PHILIPPIANS 4:13**




Good Morning everyone,

Welcome to another Sunday Morning Devotional. I hope you are well despite all the things going on at the moment. Many of us will have mixed feelings about how long a time this has been, living under such restriction and uncertainty. For many, Holidays have been cancelled and special moments have been spoiled and plans for celebration dashed. The unpredictability of these times has caused chaos and driven some to breaking point that they would seek to rebel against all that is being done for our safety. Despite seeing the news filled with sad or bad news there are glimpses for us to take hope from. Churches across the land have seen enormous pressures placed upon what they can and cannot do and yet in every congregation so many have sought to continue to demonstrate that faithfulness and support for the work of the church nationally and locally, even with the restrictions that are in play at the moment.

The foodbank at Carnwadric Church is up and running and we at Park Church have risen to the challenge of Support for them in this venture with many having been generous in their response in food and folk here are to be commended for having done so and are continuing in this. Sally Hamilton, our Clerk to the Board was reminding me that our support for Carnwadric has been quite timely as we would have sought to be supportive of a foodbank at this time of year in any case.

The timely nature of God's word is to offer a word in season and our Reading later will begin with some more appropriate words than ever before  
*“We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to*

*please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbours for their good, to build them up.”(Romans 15: 1&2). Something tangible that we can do to alleviate the difficulties others face.*

Next Sunday is of course Remembrance Sunday and recent updates on the national guidelines about meeting in public has resulted in the cancelation of all outside events in relation to Armistice Celebrations with the rule of no more than six people from two households being one of the key factors.

The Good news is that we can continue with Church services even though our locale is under Tier 3 restriction. This means that our next Service will be Remembrance Sunday and begin at 10.50am to allow for 2 minutes silence. We will also be looking to make a donation to the Work of Help for Heroes which is one of the newer and lesser well known charities to help veterans which I hope as many of you as possible will be able to support us this. I will include this information in a number of intimations enclosed in our Devotional to you.

In the mean time I look forward to seeing those of you in Church and for those unable to be so, then may you still nevertheless know the blessing God even in this strange Pandemic time.

With Best wishes from all at the Manse

Calum D. Macdonald





# Church News

## *Please Note These Three Intimations*

### Church Office Hours

We have been advised that all Church offices should be closed for the time being while under the Tier 3 Restrictions. This means that our office will not be able to continue to remain open on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday afternoons for the time being.

While the office is not formally open, the Minister will be on the premises of the Church on Tuesday Wednesday & Thursday mornings to receive any foods for delivery to the Foodbank between the hours of 10am -12 noon.



### Carnwadric Church Foodbank

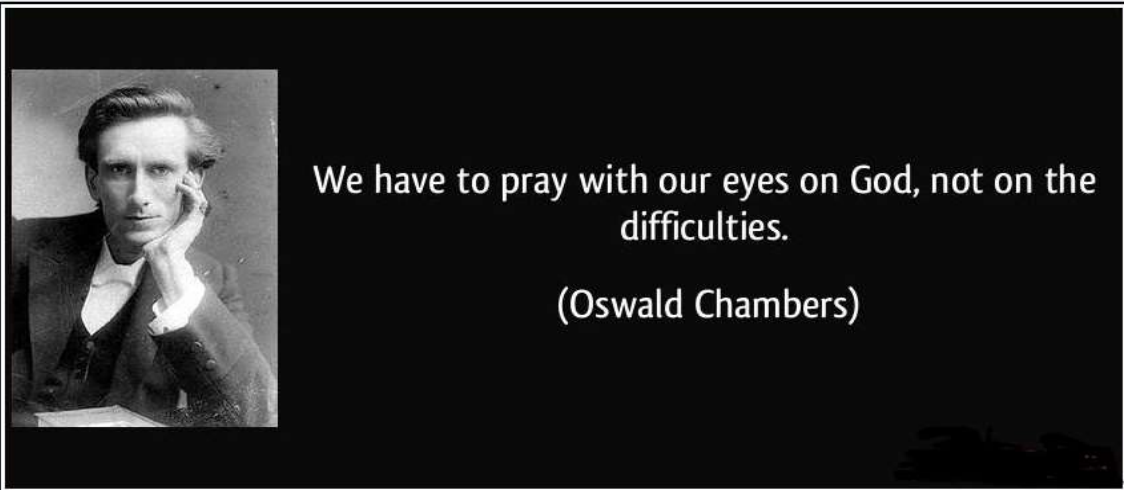
Carnwadric Church have helpfully submitted a shopping list in case people are unsure of what is best to pass on to the foodbank and so they suggest when shopping for the foodbank they should consider the following:-

Cereal, Soup (can/packet),  
Beans/spaghetti in sauce,  
Tomatoes/Pasta sauce, Vegetables,  
Meat or fish, Fruit, rice pudding,  
custard, biscuits, tea, coffee, juice,  
milk UHT/ powder, pasta/rice



*Giffnock the Park Church  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November  
Service of Prayer and Reflection  
begins  
at  
10. 50am*

*All are welcome to attend but  
please send word of your  
intention to attend as usual to  
Mr Bert Dickov (07947611412)  
which allows us to observe  
contact and trace protocols,  
avert congestion the door and  
thereby maintain Social  
distance. Thank You*



Let us Pray,

Above all powers, above all kings,  
Above all nature and all created things,  
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man,  
You were here before the world began.

Father in Heaven we need in these times to be reminded that You are sovereign and that in some strange but unfathomable way You have things in hand. Grant us the eyes of Faith again to see your great plans and purposes working through these difficult and unsettling times.

God of grace and mercy, and our loving Father, be present with us as we face an unknown future and as we walk these uncertain paths in uncertain times. In the ever-changing and uncertain world that we find ourselves, help us to know and be assured that you are sovereign, that you are all-knowing, all-powerful and ever-present. We trust in Your Goodness, Gracious God, as You uphold us in our anxiety and distress. Calm our hearts and minds and give us hope in you, our only certain hope.

Forgive us in these moments of Doubt or fear for our lack of faith and trust in You and Your Son. Forgive us our bursts of anger and resentment as we contend with all that is happening around us and comfort us in these moments with a sense of your Calming Presence and the promise of Your Peace that goes beyond every understanding.

Our Father in your grace upon us, help us to live our lives faithfully in keeping with all that you ask of us. As we seek to follow the example of your Son and our Saviour Jesus, who loved us and gave himself for us, grant us your guiding presence through Your Spirit once more that we might be that beacon of Light and hope drawing others to You, seeing the Glory of your love and mercy once more in Jesus' name we pray....

Amen



**Romans 15 1- 13**  
**(New International Version)**

15 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Each of us should please our neighbours for their good, to build them up.

<sup>3</sup> For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” <sup>4</sup> For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

<sup>5</sup> May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, <sup>6</sup> so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed <sup>9</sup> and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;  
I will sing the praises of your name.”

<sup>10</sup> Again, it says,  
“Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.”

<sup>11</sup> And again,  
“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him.”

<sup>12</sup> And again, Isaiah says,  
“The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations;  
in him the Gentiles will hope.”

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.





MAY THE *God* OF *hope*  
FILL YOU WITH *all joy* AND *peace*  
AS YOU *trust* IN *Him*, SO THAT  
YOU MAY *overflow* WITH *hope*  
BY THE *power* OF THE *Holy Spirit*.  
Romans 15:13



Good morning,

During my devotions this week I came across this verse from Romans Chapter 15 and I was quite taken with the Devotion shared by an american contributor, a lady called Darla Noble. She is a christian writer who has worked extensively with young people and Family ministry in the United States. Her thoughts expressed struck a chord with me and I thought to share her comments in the light of Romans chapter 15 and verse 13 in particular. Here is an extract of a Devotion called - the Rose Bush.

*“One of the things my great-grandma and I had in common was our tremendous love for flowers and plants. So when she passed away a few months before my husband and I were married, I took some cuttings from a few of her plants so I could start my own to remember her by. The most special one of all was her heirloom tea rosebush. I took the cuttings home to my Granny so we could plant and tend to them until they took root...if they took root.*

*They did and by the time John and I said “I do”, the tiny bushes were ready to plant. Over the span of thirty-seven years those bushes have been moved four times and numerous cuttings have been taken from them to be shared with others. But on this last move the bushes had to remain in buckets for several months...something they don't tolerate very well.*

*When I was finally able to get them in the ground I was nearly certain they wouldn't make it. I was heart-broken. I know it sounds silly, but I prayed for those roses to survive. They seemed to be just sitting there doing nothing, but when I returned home after teaching in a Bible camp for a couple of weeks, I ran out to check them and...they were getting new leaves!!! They were growing!*

*Those rosebushes remind me of many things: My sweet great-grandma, my enormous and loving family, and the fact that even when things seem dead or hopeless, God knows better. With Him there is always hope and always joy if we will let Him cultivate it in us and trust in His timing.*

Now I know what you are going to say - imagine that Calum using a gardening illustration when he has no interest in gardening. Well it is true Gardening is certainly not my first love but there are many illustrations folk

have used over the years not least Jesus himself when he spoke of the seed of the mustard tree ( Matt 13: 31) or the Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:4-15) or the teaching about bearing good fruit (Matt 7: 17), so I feel I am certainly in good company.

Like the seed that doesn't tolerate being planted in a bucket very well, having to endure months of what seemed to be conditions that were far from optimal for Growth with time and patience the Rose bush begins to flourish again. We too have been enduring conditions that were far from optimal, we are by nature social creatures and the one things that is increasingly difficult to do is to socialise with others and we have seen how there are consequences when many decide to say 'hang the restrictions, I'm for a party at home or I'm going down to a local hostelry who are hosting a secret lockdown free drinking session.

There have been many who have said to me that they long for the chance to be able to sing God's praises again in church, I miss it too. I miss the fact that I can't go to the church at the door and shake people's hands as they leave. I miss that I cannot visit someone in Hospital or a Care Home. I miss that I cannot go to the Cinema, One of the things I miss most is not being able to invite our older son and his partner to Sunday dinner at the manse often along with others including many of you whose company and conversation we have enjoyed across the table over the years.

I miss those moments that we could meet together for a concert night at the church or the Beetle Drives where half way through we stopped and ate our fish n' chips together before dishing the prize for the winner at the end of the night and of course I would usually get the Boobie Prize. I miss seeing the kids of our Sunday school in our church seeing their faces and the unexpected answers that they give, usually with a cheeky grin while they're doing it. I miss it all and more. The conditions for all of us are not optimal just now and like the rose bush we are struggling to flourish.

Here though is where we discover the secret and the marvel of God's plans and purposes where they seem to grow and flourish despite all that is happening and despite the fact that we don't seem to see it at times. Paul the apostle understood this so well and so as he begins to draw his letter of introduction to the Church based in Rome to a close he leaves them with sage advice, a clear example and a promise that seals the deal. His sage advice emphasises the importance of looking out for and looking after one another,

***We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbours for their***

**good, to build them up.** (Romans 15: 1-2) He is without doubts echoing Jesus' new commandment when he said "Love one another As I have loved You." which is recorded for our benefit in John 13:34. Acceptance of one another is pitched in seeing the ultimate example for us to follow - Jesus.

A number of years ago Americans in the USA became fascinated with the acronym WWJD - What would Jesus do? Typically, they commercialised everything to do with WWJD, wristbands, ties and scarves were made, as were mugs and coasters, pencils and pens, the list goes on. They even had a board game like Monopoly based on WWJD. They had in my view trivialised the issue dreadfully. The question is an important one - What would Jesus do? He is after all our mentor, our example to follow. Paul writes in Romans 15: that we should **"have the same mind as Jesus"** (verse 5) and **"accept one another as Christ accepted You"** (verse 7)

Thirdly Paul speaks of a Promise being made when we have followed his Command and echoed his example and this has been best summed up in verse Romans 15:13 when he writes, *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Along with the Endurance that we will need and the encouragement that we can receive for ourselves and also offer to others is a promise of Hope, Joy, Peace and Power and that the secret is an age old one for us to follow - trust in Jesus. Oswald Chambers was onto something talk about prayer - keeping our eyes "not on the difficulties but on Jesus". The children chorus sums this up nicely as we draw this reflection to a close.

When The Road Is Rough And Steep, Fix Your Eyes Upon Jesus.

He Alone Has Power To Keep, Fix Your Eyes Upon Him.

Jesus Is A Gracious Friend, One On Whom You Can Depend.

He Is Faithful To The End, Fix Your Eyes Upon Him.

We may feel we are not flourishing in the best of optimal conditions right, now but we can endure and be encouraged ourselves and encourage others as we seek to fulfil our Lord's Commands, follow his example and see his promise fulfilled. Have a great week and don't let these times we live in, the weather or anything else get you down. May God bless us all in these times ahead.

Calum D. Macdonald





*In the Week  
that lies ahead It is by*

*By Faith, we Live.*

*By Love, we Serve.*

*By Patience, we Understand.*

*By Trials, we gain wisdom.*

*By Sharing, we give Joy.*

*It is by the Father the Son  
and The Spirit we  
Know Blessing*