

Dear Friends

Attached with this letter is a copy of the Annual report for our AGM which will take place on Sunday October 11th at 10am. If you have any questions about the report you can e mail them to chrismusther@gmail.com or post them (his address is in the church directory) or send to Angela or Liz via e mail, post or phone. Nominations for PCC and or wardens need to be with Chris Musther by Sunday 4th October and if there is the need for a vote on either of these, we will send out voting slips via e mail (or post if not on email). If voting slips are necessary they MUST be returned via e mail or post for Sunday 11th in order to be counted. Nomination forms for election to PCC and for churchwarden are attached (but can also be found here <https://www.parishresources.org.uk/pccs/apcms/>) Also attached is a message from Ali and one from Angela with information about the role of churchwarden. The PCC is now getting to grips with working on line and dealing with church business in accordance with the current restrictions. There is much to consider to ensure we do things to include everyone, things that previously none of us would have needed to think about. Please bear with us, we are trying to do our best and we hope that everyone feels that they have been able to be included.

Church attendance has been good and the measures in place seem to be working well. However, we must remind everyone that we are not permitted to gather in groups larger than 6, **even outside the church, even if we are at a 2-metre distance, even if we are wearing masks.** Passers by seeing a group outside church on Sunday, even though all were observing the social distancing, made remarks that the group was larger than 6. We know it is hard when you haven't seen people for a while and want to catch up with them but the rule is for our own benefit and that of others. Our community need to see that we take the rules seriously and as such we need to set a good example. Sadly we are unable to meet in the church hall after services as the church hall remains closed and the rule of 6 would still apply. The PCC considered the reopening of the hall at the meeting on Monday but agreed that we are still unable to do so in line with COVID secure requirements. This decision will be reviewed at every PCC meeting but at the moment the only permitted access into the hall is for the use of the toilets during a service if required and for the weekly water check and cleaning. At all other times no one should enter the hall.

As the weather turns colder please make sure that if you come to church on a Sunday you are warmly clothed. The church is not the warmest place even with the doors and windows closed but the extra ventilation required makes it even more difficult to keep the heat in. The boiler is due to be serviced this week so hopefully it will be working at optimal efficiency!

The news has been rather gloomy over the past few days with news of more restrictions and local lockdowns and it is all too easy to become discouraged. Please pray for all those for whom the prospect of a long road ahead is daunting. Young and old alike are finding the toll on their mental health very hard to bear. Please continue to support each other by keeping in touch with those for whom the autumn and winter will be a real challenge. Of course, there are and always will be things to be thankful for, blessings and happy events to celebrate. We would love to hear your good news stories so please do let us know if you want to share this.

Sometimes it is just good to see the funny side of things and Angela found this from a school test which we thought you might find amusing.

Pay special attention to the wording and spelling. If you know the bible, even a little, you'll find this hilarious! It comes from a Caithness school test.

Kids were asked questions about the old and new testaments. The following 25 statements about the bible were written by children. They have not been retouched or corrected. incorrect spelling has been left in.

1. ***In the first book of the bible, Guinness. god got tired of creating the world so he took the sabbath off.***
2. ***Adam and eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pears.***
3. ***Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.***
4. ***The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.***
5. ***Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.***
6. ***Samson slayed the philistines with the axe of the apostles.***
7. ***Moses led the Jews to the red sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.***
8. ***The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to mount cyanide to get the ten commandments.***
9. ***The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.***
10. ***The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.***
11. ***Moses died before he ever reached Canada then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of geritol.***
12. ***The greatest miracle in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.***

13. David was a Hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.
14. Solomon, one of Davids sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
15. When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the magna carta.
16. When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found Jesus in the manager.
17. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
18. St. John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.
19. Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.
20. It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
21. The people who followed the lord were called the 12 decibels.
22. The epistels were the wives of the apostles.
23. One of the oppossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.
24. St. Paul cavorted to Christian, he preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.
25. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

Of course none of our All Saints children would make such errors!!

Finally some wise thoughts which we will leave with you courtesy of Nicky Gumbel. We pray that our whole family will soon be reunited and that this pandemic will be under control. We also include a prayer that you might find helpful

Church is not an organization you join; it is a family where you belong, a home where you are loved and a hospital where you find healing.

Nicky Gumbel
www.idlehearts.com

O loving God,
we pray that you will give us courage and wisdom
as we face the hard realities which confront us
in life around the world today.
May those with gifts for human health and hope
discover ways which help us
to end the threatening infections of coronavirus
and restore our lives to a new day.
Give to us, we pray, a profound sense of creative
community,
as we care for each other,
especially those who are most vulnerable.
Hold us in your arms, like a loving parent would,
as we journey into the future.
Call us towards deeper faith, O Christ,
believing that you are with us.
And lift our hearts, O Holy Spirit,
as we face each moment.
Amen.

Rev. Dorothy McRae-McMahon, South Sydney Uniting Church

World Council of Churches

#StayAtHome
#PrayAtHome

With love
Liz and Angela.