

MEADOWBANK

Church of Scotland

UPDATE
4th June
2020



www.meadowbank.church

Friends ... some good news!

We are now being given an indication by the Scottish Government as to when churches might be able to open again provided there is a low or decreasing infection rate and other critical conditions are met.

Thursday 18th June will see **Phase 2** in the easing of restrictions allowing for churches to be open for private prayer, and for marriages to take place, with a limited number of attendees, all subject to physical distancing and hygiene safeguards.

Thursday 9th July is the date when **Phase 3** of easing restrictions is expected to be announced when places of worship will be allowed to open for extended groups, again, subject, again, to physical distancing and hygiene safeguards.

It is absolutely clear, too, that no building can legally open without a legally mandated COVID risk assessment, the paperwork for which is being prepared. The Church of Scotland has a management group meeting on a weekly basis to monitor and advise on developments.

**Together, we pray
that progress can be
made in bringing about
an end to the present
situation of danger to
health of mind and body**

weekly message

Words from Christian Aid for these days

'For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come... will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

Romans 8 verses 38-39

**God of heaven and earth,
in these times of isolation,
apart from loved ones
distant from friends
away from neighbours
thank you that there is nothing
in all of creation,
not even coronavirus,
that is able to separate us from your love.**

**And may your love that never fails
continue to be shared
through the kindness of strangers
looking out for each other,
for neighbours near and far
all recognising our shared vulnerability,
each of us grateful for every breath,
and willing everyone to know the gift
of a full and healthy life.
Keep us all in your care.
Amen.**

Absolutely **nothing** can
separate you from **Jesus**
and His **love**.

Romans 8:38-39

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amazing!

The idea that nothing can separate us from God's love is something which at times can be too big for us to understand. Yet this is what Jesus shared with his first friends. This is what he would want us to get hold of as an absolute key to living our lives with the freedom he knew.

We are created to live in relationship with God and with each other in love and faith. Jesus so wanted to help people reconnect and to live in and by that love which is infinite.

So we need to take time each day to allow that amazing truth to grow deeper and deeper within. It is so easy to let negative thoughts or our own weaknesses get too much mind space but that is what happens unless we are open to receive the love of God. Take time with a verse such as Paul's words in Romans 8 verses 38-39 and let these amazing words work for you!

LOVE OF GOD DEPTH PRESENT DEATH
ALL CREATION HEIGHT CONVINCED POWERS
ANYTHING ELSE NEITHER SEPARATE LIFE
CHRIST JESUS ANGELS FUTURE DEMONS

Think about these words as you look for them in the Wordsearch

U L S C E S O A O S S N N
A L N O H R T N E S E R P
T R O N C U U Y S I L S O
S W M V S N T T T E L R R
A V E I E E T H U E H W H
R V D N P O E I G F T Y G
E T L C A R F N T I P H E
P O W E R S A G S L E D U
C U S D A C F E O G D H R
A D E A T H N L D D E I I
O S U S E J T S I R H C E
T O N O I T A E R C L L A
J N H I U J U E F V M V M



Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus



God's ways!

While we may look at what is happening in the US with racial injustice and despair, we, ourselves, need to reinforce the value of every life in our own hearts, minds, communities and nation.

In 2013 three young, black, American women started **#blacklivesmatter** because they were outraged at the way their brothers had been treated by the justice system. A reaction to the movement was when other people started using the phrase **'all lives matter'** to try to correct the idea that black lives are maybe more important. But **#blacklivesmatter** supporters stress that the movement isn't about believing no other races matter. Instead, the movement seeks to highlight and change how racism disproportionately affects the black community, in terms of police brutality, job security, socioeconomic status, educational opportunities, and more.

Bishop Desmond Tutu is often quoted as saying 'If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.'