



## Climb Every Mountain Humbly

The old song invites us to

**‘Climb every mountain,  
Ford every stream,  
Follow every rainbow,  
‘Till you find your dream.’**

Well we didn’t climb every mountain but we forded plenty of streams and we were blessed by some beautiful rainbows AND we managed Scotland’s ‘Cardinal Munros’ - that is the ones lying at the four points of the compass. These are Ben Hope, the furthest north of the Munros, Sgurr na Banachdich, the most westerly of the summits, Ben Lomond the most southerly one and Mount Keen, the furthest east of Scotland’s 282 highest mountains.

Immediate responses? 1. Scotland is a stunningly beautiful country. 2. In Scotland it rains a lot! 3. The midge is the most dreaded creature on the planet! 4. Most importantly, it is good when God’s people come together to pray.

This Prayer Journey was part of the Week of Prayer for Church and Country which ran from 17th - 22nd August. In calling for such a week, it seemed to me that in a time of heightened anxiety, with none of us sure what the pandemic has in store next, that it would be good to make time to listen for the ‘still, small voice’ of the One who has promised to guide us through even the most uncertain times.

Each day of that week, there were morning reflections and online evening gatherings. The format allowed people from all parts to come together and the week would have worked fine if that was the extent of it.

But as a keen mountaineer, I’d always been struck by the gospel references to Jesus going to the mountains to pray: ‘Soon afterwards, Jesus went up a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night.’ (Luke 6:12)

So given that my Moderatorial year has thus far been restricted to sitting in front of a computer screen, I jumped at the opportunity to go to the mountains to pray as part of this special week. Joining me were Gregor McIntyre, one of my chaplains, and Richard Begg, a Church of Scotland minister presently serving as an army chaplain.

Of course you don’t have to go anywhere to pray; you can pray anytime, anywhere and about anything. But the three of us can report that there was something very moving about praying for the Church and for all of the country from these high places.

It seems to me that the nature of our prayer right now should principally be about humbling ourselves before God; ‘If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face...’ (2nd Chronicles 7:14)

COVID-19 has reminded us of our frailty - that we’re not all-powerful or invincible. Less of ourselves and more reliance on God would be no bad outcome of this season.

This came home to me forcefully on the Isle of Skye. The weather was atrocious and with our heads down, we missed a key turning on our route and so found ourselves in a much trickier spot than should have been the case. We made the common sense, safety-first decision to turn around before getting to the summit. There was no point in putting ourselves at risk when our principal purpose was to pray, not to stand on the top.

The mountains don’t always give themselves up easily; sometimes it’s a matter of being humble, and recognising our limitations.

Might humbling ourselves before the One who inhabits the highest of heights and the depths of the seas be what is required of us right now?

Martin Fair

Moderator of Church of Scotland

**CHURCH OFFICE: 431135****ADMINISTRATOR**

Linda Hunter: 431135

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri : 9 -12noon

**MINISTER**Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD  
07889 982 216**PASTORAL ASSISTANT**

Ian Gray: 01674 677126

**CLERK TEAM LEADER**

Joan Hainsworth: 875409

**TREASURER**

Heather Black: 874665

**CHURCH OFFICER**

Janis Clark: 878594

**YOUTH WORKER**

Carla Ingram: 07931 420 905

**HAVILAH PROJECT****LEADER**

Tracey McLeod: 434088

**HAVILAH PROJECT****WORKER**

Tammy Stuart: 434088

**HAVILAH SUPPORT****WORKER**

Karen Reaney: 01307 818277

**FABRIC CONVENOR**

Pending

**SUNDAY CLUB**

Elaine Fair: 873238

**FREEWILL ENVELOPES**

Linda Hunter: 431135

**SAFEGUARDING**Eleanor Jakobsen:  
01382 477318**FLOWER CONVENOR**

Margaret McIntosh: 553160

**PRAYER PROMOTERS**Judy Spink: 872395  
Anne Matthew: 876008**SUPPLIES CO-ORDINATOR**

Janis Clark: 878594

**BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER**

Linda Hunter: 431135

**MAGAZINE EDITOR**

Ken Miller: 875235

Quest@arbroathstandrews.org.uk

**ST. ANDREW'S ARBROATH****Member Records****June/July/August 2020****Baptisms and Blessings** - None**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - Margaret Taylor (June), Rita O'Neil**IMPORTANT DATE****OCTOBER EDITION****Word Processed files, as attachments, should be sent directly to the Editor****Monday 21st September (Word-Processed file)**

## Tim Mineard

So here I am finally at the end of my long and winding road towards becoming a fully-fledged Church of Scotland minister! Just as a wee reminder, I left my job in Dundee way back in August 2016 before going on to study Divinity at St Andrews University. During that time I had 3 different placements – 2 in Dundee and 1 at Forfar. Then since finishing University in June 2019 I've been employed as a probationary minister at Fintry Parish Church in Dundee. I will be finishing my probation on September 6th before moving on to become the minister of a very familiar sounding church – St Andrews Parish Church in Barrhead (<https://www.barrhead-standrewschurch.org.uk/>).

My ordination is due to take place on Thursday 24th September in the brand new Presbytery of Clyde. In "normal" times it would have been fantastic to welcome you all to Barrhead for a service of celebration. Sadly that won't be the case for those of us being ordained this year. But if an online installation service is good enough for the Moderator of the CoS himself, then I guess its also good enough for me! St Andrew's Barrhead also broadcast their services online (it is a

different church honest!), so my ordination will be taking place probably with up to 50 people in the building and the rest watching online. Further details to follow in due course.

In the meantime, myself and the family want to say thankyou so much for all your prayers and support over the course of this journey. It hasn't always been easy, but we've very much appreciated your love and fellowship along the way. We would love for you to continue praying for us as we settle into life over on the west coast: for Fiona as she looks to get a position working on the mid-wifery bank; for Lucy who is just starting her second year at Glasgow University; and for Emily who will be moving to a new school in Barrhead to study her Highers. We'll keep in touch and let you know how we get on, and please feel free to pop along to the church if you're ever in the neighbourhood (although with current regulations you will probably need to book in advance!). We're so thankful to have been a part of such a wonderful church family in Arbroath and to have had a brilliant mentor in Martin who has been a genuine inspiration to me throughout this journey.

With every blessing to you all for the future.

## Guild News

Since our last Guild News, time seems to have flown! We have a photo of Pat (Jackson) who may well have the tallest sunflower grown from the sunflower seeds given to the Guild ladies to plant in June. We also have a lovely photo of Nellie with her completed "Circle of Blessings" given out in July, that staff at Tarriebank helped her to make. We had our annual Fish and Chip Tea on the 10th of August – unfortunately due to the restrictions, not all together in the Gallery - as we normally do but in our own homes and although it wasn't the same, it was very enjoyable.

The Guild Annual Gathering which is held in the Caird Hall in Dundee every year will, on this occasion, be a Virtual Gathering on Saturday 5th of September. This will be screened on the Church of Scotland website at 11 a.m. Holy Communion will be included so please have elements ready so you can join in this special part of the day. The Moderator will also be there! Our Guild Sunday service will be on 13th September

when we will take part in the service and Pete Cuthbertson from the Church of Scotland CrossReach will be sharing about "Join the Dots", one of the projects the Guild is supporting. And talking about projects, just a wee reminder, one of our projects for this year is for the Sailors' Society so again, we would be very grateful if you could knit some hats for the sailors who are far from home; knowing someone here cares enough to knit a hat for them means so much. Thank you to the folk who have already knitted some.

I wonder if anyone still has Guild boxes needing to be emptied? Please let us know (Jenni – 07548 660991) and someone will come and collect them. Our first "Guild at Home" meeting will be on Monday 14th September which will be our Dedication and Communion Service. Everyone is welcome at the Guild and if anyone would like to join us - though only in spirit, as we will all be in our own homes - please let Joyce know (01241 431681) so we can get the material to you. Thank you.

## Ask Theophilus

### Question :

In Luke 22:7-13 we read of Jesus sending Peter and John into the city to meet up with a man carrying a pitcher of water. This person would lead them to the chosen room where the two disciples were to prepare for the Passover that evening. Was this a miraculous incident—meeting the man who would take them to some house or other? It all seems rather bizarre to me.

### Theophilus answers :

The key to unlock the mystery surrounding this rather strange incident lies in the immediate context, for in verses 3 to 6 Luke relates how Judas had plotted with the chief priests and the temple 'police' how he would lead them to wherever Jesus might be that night so they could arrest him.

Jesus knew perfectly well what Judas intended. But it was he himself who would determine when and where he would be arrested, not Judas. He still had much he wanted to say to his disciples before he would be taken into custody. (John's Gospel, in chapters 13 to 17, relates the final all-important teaching given during the last evening of the Lord's earthly ministry.) Moreover, Jesus was planning to eat the final Passover—thus terminating and fulfilling the Mosaic law—with the disciples and inaugurating what has become known as 'The Lord's Supper' or 'Communion'. Judas' treachery could not be allowed to thwart this crucial timetable, so vitally important for the New Testament church about to emerge.

It is clear, therefore, that earlier in the week Jesus had prearranged a meeting place to which two of his disciples (only two for secrecy was essential) would be led to the Upper Room. The sign was easy to detect, for normally only women carried water jars on their shoulders—men carried the heavier water-skins. For centuries it has been assumed (in my view correctly) that the man they would meet was John Mark, and the house to which he led them was his father's house. John Mark's father would have still been alive at this time for Luke calls him 'the master of the house', and apparently he knew and believed in Jesus for the message Peter and John were to give him was, 'The Teacher ('Master' AV) says to you, "Where is the guest room...".'

John Mark, who is credited by contemporary sources as recording Peter's teaching after his martyrdom (that record is known as Mark's Gospel), was also lurking in Gethsemane where the Lord was arrested. It is clear enough why Mark did not name himself on that occasion! (See Mark 14:51-52.) And it was apparently the same 'guest room' where the disciples were meeting and praying for Peter's release from prison (Acts 12:12).

Therefore, there's nothing miraculous about this incident, other than Jesus deliberately timing his own arrest; he only ever used natural precautions to defend himself. Thus, this simple incident clearly shows that Christ—neither Judas nor the chief priests—was in complete control of the events that led to his crucifixion.

**David Searle**

## Dalitso Update

As always at this time of year we are busy organising and packing the container. Although we are yet to confirm a date for it leaving, with the current situation it was important that we continued to make plans as we are working with a really small team. Please make note of the following dates which outline our plans for the remainder of the year. No donations will be accepted outside of the dates below.

**27th August to 31st October -  
NO Donations accepted**

**1st to 30th November -  
Donations accepted**

**1st December to 8th January -  
NO Donations accepted**

**9th January -  
Donations Restart**

As most of you will be aware, since we restarted collections we have been working with scheduled drop off times through contacting Sheila, Doris or [info@dalitso.org](mailto:info@dalitso.org). This arrangement will continue for all future donations as this ensures that we are not overwhelmed with donations.

**Also please can you note that donations should not be dropped off and left unattended.**

We thank you for your support in this.

We continue to monitor the spread of Covid-19 in Malawi. The new government is regularly updating citizens and has made the wearing of face masks mandatory in all public places. Schools and our centres remain closed. Please pray for our children as many are living in vulnerable situations. Kiri and Charles continue to monitor closely all our children but until the government reopens centres like ours, the children will remain at home.

Although donations for the container have stopped for now, we will continue to collect the parcels for the sponsor children. The deadline was the 31st August, so please can any outstanding gifts be arranged for drop off to Sheila or Doris ASAP.

Lastly, our 'at home' fundraisers continue. We are currently running the Cuppie Across Scotland for Malawi where you can collect £2 coins (the cost of a cuppie out and about) and donate to Malawi. We have sheets available each raising £50, the cost to feed 1 person for the remainder of the year. Our Move It 2 Malawi fundraiser also continues. So far supporters have walked, peddled and run 2088 miles. Each mile is £1 and will be used to fund the container to Malawi. We have made it to Africa but still have many miles to go. If you would like to get involved in either of these 2 fundraisers, get in touch or check out our Facebook page.

As always, thank you for your prayers and support.

Charis



## Service of Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday 20th September

The Kirk Session at its meeting on 27th August agreed that the undernoted organisations should be the recipients of our Harvest Gifts for this year:

**The Lighthouse Project**, Town Mission – donations of Pants/Socks/Tights for Primary and Secondary school children

**The Dalitso Trust** for Malawi – donations of Soap

Donations of these items can be delivered to the Church door **between 9am and 12 Noon** on :

**Friday 18th / Monday 21st / Tuesday 22nd September.**

Boxes will be placed outside the front door of the Church to receive your gifts. For security purposes someone will be in the church office.

On Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday we will have a 'virtual' soup lunch via Zoom commencing at 12 noon. Please make a plate of soup for yourself and join us online.

I hope that as many people as possible will be able to join us on Zoom to share this time of fellowship together.

Joan Hainsworth

Session Clerk



**Left**  
**Pat may have the tallest**  
**sunflower grown from**  
**seed.**

**Right**  
**Nellie with her completed**  
**circle of blessings.**



**Tim Mineard reflects on the beauty of our hills.**