

www.culbokiechurchcentre.org

Notices: Cafe: Line Dancing: Walking Group:usual times

After Church Teas – please consider adding your name to the Rota!

Luke 10:29-37

There was a television comedy called “Bread” going out between 1986-91. It centred on a family in Liverpool, mother, father and grown-up children. Grandad lived next door.

In one of the episodes, grandad was unhappy. He felt lonely, and showed it in a bad temper when they called round to see him. The family responded by taking him little gifts, to show they loved him.

It didn't satisfy Grandad. “I don't want you to give me things,” he complained. “I just want you to stay awhile”.

In their busyness, it was hard for the family to realise that he didn't want gifts, he just needed them. A little of their time.

It's a perceptive parable. When someone's in need, it's usually easier to raise a collection for them than to find people with the time to go and be with them.

Love can be shown through gifts, but the best gift is often one's time. Love is a relationship, reaching across the gap between people, pulling them closer. When someone's lonely, it's not presents they want, it's presence. Someone to sit with, to talk to, someone to listen. Someone who values them enough not just to give their money but to give their time.

The important thing about the Good Samaritan, it seems to me, wasn't the fact that he had money. It was his willingness to give time, take risks, and develop a relationship.

If we're too busy for this, then we're too busy.
Eddie Askew (Facing the Storm)



19 July

Sun. Think of someone who may be lonely. Pray about how you could reach out to them, by giving them a listening ear, companionship and enjoy a cuppa and cake with them.

Mon. SU: Pray for P5-P7s enjoying fun and adventure on their holiday at Altnacriche. Pray for Team Leader Elaine Watt, for safety, growing confidence and deepening trust in what God says in the Bible is true. A three-day COOL Mission is being held in Lochcarron, led by Timmy Curries, and in Strathaven, led by Julie Bain. Pray for existing Relationships to deepen and new children to come. Pray that young leaders will know God's equipping.

Tues. Thank our Creator God, that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Thank Him for the amazing capacity He has given us to think, feel, understand and remember. May we glorify Him with our lives.

Wed. TISHA B'AV: the saddest day in the Jewish calendar. Bring before the God of eternity our Jewish friends on this day or mourning over tragedies across their history: from the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem 2000 years ago to the Holocaust in WW11, and more recently the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7th 2023. Ask God to grant them His salvation and peace.

Thu. The conflict across the Middle East continues to bring widespread devastation and displacement. Pray for lasting peace to settle over the entire region and for all whose lives have been devastated. Pray for sustainable solutions that allow Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace and security.

Fri. Pray for people who have experienced traumatic events and suffer from bad memories causing nightmares, and other symptoms. Ask God our Healer to strengthen them and reveal roads towards recovery.

Sat. Pray for the Gaelic Christian community in Scotland, and ask God to use the Scottish Bible Society's Gaelic-language material to bless them in their faith.

Sun. 19 July Psalm 42:1-11 When we are cast down

Mon. 20 July Ecclesiastes 1:2-18 Solomon

Tues. 21 July Job 3:1-24 Job

Wed. 22 July Luke 8:1-3 Mary Magdalene

Thu. 23 July Mark 5:1-20 Legion

Fri. 24 July 1 Samuel 16:14-23 Saul

Sat. 25 July Jonah 2:1-6 Jonah