



 **NOVEMBER**  
2020

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Warmest greetings to you as we continue to live in the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The clocks have changed and as the leaves continue to change colour and fall we realise that this very strange time has been with us through spring, summer and autumn. Winter now approaches and we are told that we are to be prepared for challenging times ahead.

During this time, even though restricted, we have adapted our work patterns and discovered new dimensions to our fellowship, worship and service. That, for me, has been exciting. Step by step we are developing better on-line skills and ways of communication. As we proceed, you will be informed of opportunities to explore the Christian faith and, hopefully, ways in which we can do more on-line together Circuit wide.

We are also taking those first steps in worshipping together in some of our buildings. I am pleased and encouraged by the ways congregations in this Circuit have been responsible in carrying out the necessary risk assessments and action plans. Yet, even though it is good to be in worship together, we realise that we are still not able to sing, and there are protocols which limit us in being able to enjoy the fellowship we treasure so much. We also realise that we need to wrap up a bit warmer than before!

I am also aware, though, of the difficulties and challenges many people are experiencing. In my own family, for example, we were not able to attend the funeral of a beloved aunt who died, nor have we been able to visit family, including our grandson and his parents. We hear of family members and friends, in different countries, who have, to varying degrees, been afflicted with coronavirus.

Yet, through the pandemic we have discovered time and time again, that we are together in this – and in that togetherness God is with us – ALWAYS! In the midst of all that is foreboding, good news stories continue – be they acts of kindness, remembrance, encouragement, support, grace and hope.

Psalm 78 (*this week's psalm*) encourages us to put our hope in God – never forgetting God's deeds.

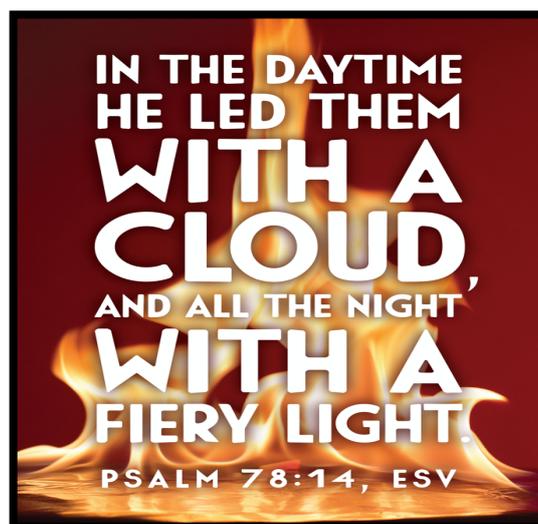
As we continue the journey through this surreal time, we keep each other in prayer as we remember who God is for us and the world that God so loves. Realise too, that God may, through prayer, prompt you to do something new and creative – those deeds, as the psalmist observes, that someday may be remembered by the following generations.

Please take care, and please stay safe.

Give thanks - live in hope.

God bless,

*Eddie*



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The Forth Valley Circuit serves the Methodist people in Edinburgh, Fife, the Lothians, the Scottish Borders and Stirlingshire.