

### **Wick URC Report for Parish Magazine in December 2020**

At the time of writing we are in a second lockdown that, once again, has seen our chapel services closed down, even though we have felt as safe as it is possible to feel in such times at our recently resumed Sunday services. We were, at least, allowed to do a brief Remembrance Service on Sunday 8th November, meeting outside the front of the chapel by the memorial and remembering those whose names are inscribed there as well as those who have given their lives in service to our country in the years since the two world wars.

During the first lockdown of 2020, we discovered that it was not so much the sermons we missed. There was plenty online and in print to help keep us in touch with our faith and our desire to worship. The thing we missed the most was the fellowship of our chapel community, the human contact, the breaking of bread together, the pleasure of feeling part of a family of faith. And although we could and can still communicate by phone and by email, it will be this aspect of our little chapel community that we miss once again.

Regardless of the traditions of a particular denomination, many church services are, quite reasonably, aimed at those who regularly attend the church and therefore, at those who already believe. Such services may seem unintelligible to those who do not believe but who, in some general way, may be curious about spiritual matters or may simply desire to explore whether there is any deeper meaning to 'life, the universe and everything'.

If you asked each individual member of the chapel exactly what they believe, you would probably find a range of answers, and those answers might well be a bit muddled. How could any of us find the words to define or explain God? None of us would be in any doubt, however, that the love of God, as expressed in the life and person of Jesus, is the energy that binds us together, the force that heals brokenness, the impulse that inspires us to worship.

Our services are open to anyone, regardless of who they are or where they might be on their spiritual journey. If you join us one day, when we are allowed to meet again, you will not be asked to explain what you believe or to subscribe to what anyone else believes. Our 'Family Spot' services, on the third Sunday of the month, will be particularly informal, with members contributing any item of interest they feel they want to share, be it a text, a poem, a meditation, a hymn or a 'thought for the day', and contributions or questions from visitors would also be welcome. Our services are all now reduced to half-an-hour. We hope to be able to share something meaningful or thought-provoking in that time. The chapel may not look much from the outside, but inside there is a simple, calm and welcoming space that invites contemplation. We hope you will join us.

From us all at the Chapel have a blessed Christmas and a healthy, peaceful New Year.