

Bergen Bridge

**Jon and Ruth Bergen
16 Clerk Street
Brechin, DD9 6AE**

November 2020

Dear Praying Friends,

Life is interesting as it seems that even with lockdown status in effect, we still have more to do than time in a day. There are the daily meetings, phone calls and the useful but dreaded video calls that still just don't replace the face to face conversations we took for granted in days not that long ago. I read not long ago a summary of life these days: We are serving God where we are as we are.

The COVID-19 seems to be THE topic we can't escape, it governs everything these days. The views are varied and all over the spectrum and somewhere there is probably truth and actual facts. The US elections of course have an undue amount of coverage even here and again the views are so biased and you will love it or hate it depending on your own views. It is so hard to think how to answer in a way that leads to gospel instead of political views.

These two things while peripheral to why we are here, still shape everything we do. We are blessed in that we are able to have Sunday services, mid-week Bible studies. The Sunday service is live streamed as part of that outreach. There is weekly Thought for the Week that is distributed throughout all of Angus papers. I can do limited pastoral visits, and a very limited involvement with the Brechin City Football Club chaplaincy duties.

We are facing the awareness of people, that while church is here, the importance is diminished and getting the folk to return is a challenge. Mental health issues are a real part of people's lives and whilst the Gospel message will not 'cure' these maladies, it has to be a good thing to know that the Lord is there to walk beside us in our dark places. I have finished preaching through the book of Joshua and between now and Advent I am preaching some Psalms. Just reading the Psalms is a blessing to my own life that I hope I can communicate to others in their 'valleys of shadow of death.'

The challenge is that of being 'Scottish', moaning is part of the DNA, and despite best intents, it sometimes is a go to option for us as well. The reality is however, as we submerge ourselves in Christ, we find so much to be thankful for. We still have struggles day by day. Finances are tight these days as the pandemic has hit the American churches that support us. But we still have a roof over our heads and food on the table. We see lives being influenced and changing in light of the gospel message.

So, at this Thanksgiving season we are thankful to the Father for looking out for us kids in this place. May you as well find at thankful heart as part of your day.

Your Gospel Bridge to Brechin,

Jon and Ruth Bergen