

Good morning,

What a glorious few days we have been enjoying here in Aberdeenshire. It has been ever more enjoyable because finally we have been allowed to catch up with friends and family. Yesterday, the first day of the easing, we were joined by two friends. It was joy to sit outside in the sunshine and catch up. We were able to talk about how we have been filling our time. We exchanged news about mutual friends and family and of course compared lockdown hair styles! It was good to feel that finally, perhaps, things are starting to get back to some sort of normality. The only thing that was difficult was resisting the temptation to give them both a welcome hug! I hope you too have been able to see family and friends that you have been missing too. Catching up with our family face to face will have to wait a little longer, however, as a journey to the South of England is still not recommended. How I value Skype, Facetime, Whatsapp and the internet in general at the moment - it has been a lifeline.

Tomorrow is Pentecost, the birthday of the worldwide church. As I mentioned before, we are all being invited to join the Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt. Rev. Dr. Martin Fair for a service for Pentecost. The service will be available on the Church of Scotland website, and their Facebook page at 10am tomorrow. It will be available with or without captions, and there will be a BSL version as well. The audio of the service will be available via a phone line too for those you know who perhaps don't have access to the internet.

The link where you will find all the details is:

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2020/moderator-to-host-church-wide-pentecost-service>

I hope as many of you as possible will join at 10am tomorrow. The service will be available after that too if you want to watch it again.

It will be wonderful to feel that although we are still at home, we are joining the whole family of God, one Church family together.

Blessings and enjoy the sunshine!

Valerie

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