

THE SCOTS KIRK PARIS

#RestonsPrudents

Hello everyone

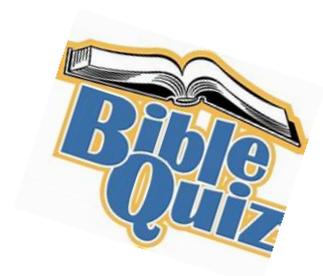
Once again we are unable to meet in person but our online services will be continuing on Youtube throughout the duration of this new lockdown. Thanks to Zoom we hope to be able to see each other over coffee next Sunday after the service so do join us if you can. You will receive the link in good time. Don't forget that you can contact Jan or any of the elders at any time. As usual, stay safe and stay in touch!



And in the meantime...

Here is a short quiz to help you while away the time and test your Bible knowledge. Each line contains a series of consecutive letters which spell the name of a Biblical character; answers next week!

1. This tree is a baob**ab**. Elephants use baobabs to quench their thirst.
2. I'll pick up the tab. It has to be my turn!
3. He loves jam. Especially when it's homemade!
4. I hope you locked the house. There are a lot of burglaries at the moment.
5. Have you ever read such a misleading statement?
6. I have a yucca in my office but it's growing too high.
7. As a pupil at elementary school, I'm not allowed to have a phone.
8. Don't put too much wasabi on your sushi! It's very strong.
9. Spinach and broccoli are my favorite greens.
10. Let's go to the Thistle Bar. ABBA should be playing there in an hour.
11. What will we have for lunch when the children come? Sausages would be nice!
12. I always have relish and lettuce on my hamburgers.
13. "Look out", cried the guide, "cheetah ahead!"
14. Many people think that politicians are parsimonious with the truth.
15. He could never get used to her odd way of speaking.
16. If the truth be told, I'd rather be on holiday.
17. You don't steam osso bucco, you cook it slowly in a wine sauce.
18. A bluetit used to come to our bird-table every day.
19. I would have loved to go to Kashmir. I am so sorry I never got the chance.
20. He lived in a humble cottage at the entrance to the village.

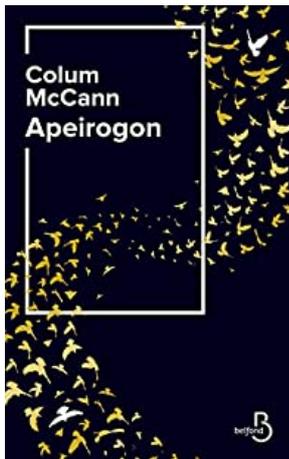


Putting anger to good use

On Sunday Jan spoke about the "level of anger in the world". He said that anger should drive us to "positive action" and "open conversation".

An excellent example of this is given in the new Colum McCann novel *Apeirogon* to which the Rev. John McCulloch of St. Andrew's Scots Memorial Church in Jerusalem refers in his latest partner letter. John, a member of the International Presbytery, is currently on furlough and lockdown in Scotland but, as he says from the heart, he is desperate to get back to the land he loves so much. His September letter was entitled "Beyond right and wrong there is a field, I'll meet you there".

These words are taken from *Apeirogon* which tells the true story of Rami, an Israeli and Bassam, a Palestinian, two fathers who become friends after they lose their daughters during the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.



As John says in his letter, Rami and Bassam made the choice not to allow their personal tragedy to fuel hatred and suspicion; they channel their anger and grief into something positive as they work together for peace and justice.

John also quotes a Jewish friend who said "*what chance is there of ever finding a resolution to this conflict if we do not sit down and talk with each other?*" This is the "open conversation" Jan was talking about.

To conclude, John has this to say: "*[Peace] will come when those from opposing sides can recognize the humanity of the other, as fellow human beings dignified by being made in the image of God; and work together for a peace built on justice for all....We can all play our part in building a better world, in embodying the Kingdom of God, which always comes to heal and make new*".

The world seems to have gone mad and France is going through a particularly difficult time as the government tries to cope with Covid, a fresh spate of terrorist attacks and general social unrest. Perhaps now might be a good time to read this book (if you can get hold of it!) and to remember the many people working tirelessly and discreetly for peace around the world.

Go to <https://churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/world-mission/mission-partners/israel-and-palestine> to read Rev. John McCulloch's letter in full.

Reformation day

In the introduction to Sunday's service, Jan reminded us (or perhaps we learned for the first time!) that 31st October was Reformation Day. In 1517, Martin Luther, a monk, nailed 95 complaints against his own church to a church door in Wittenberg, Germany, challenging the church's authority and doctrine and reclaiming the central doctrine of salvation through grace alone by faith alone in Christ alone. In Luther's own words:



"I greatly longed to understand Paul's Epistle to the Romans and nothing stood in the way but that one expression, 'the justice of God,' [Rom. 1:17] because I took it to mean that justice whereby God is just and deals justly in punishing the unjust. My situation was that, although an impeccable monk, I stood before God as a sinner troubled in conscience, and I had no confidence that my merit would assuage him. Therefore I did not love a just and angry God, but rather hated and murmured against him.

"Yet I clung to the dear Paul and had a great yearning to know what he meant. Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that 'the just shall live by his faith' [Rom. 1:17]. Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning, and whereas the 'justice of God' had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressively sweet in greater love. This passage of Paul became to me a gate of heaven...."