

THE FELLOWSHIP OF ST THOMAS

Letter from the President. June 2020.

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Dear Friends,

What strange and unsettling times we are living in at present. I hope you are all keeping safe and well. I am writing this after we had a “first” for the FOST Committee. Our committee meeting scheduled for 1st June went ahead, through organising the meeting using ZOOM technology where we all were in our homes but able to see and interact with one another on our computers.

This letter is to bring you important news about the Annual Gathering planned for 26th September and which was to have been our final meeting. Given the current situation with Covid-19 the Committee has taken the decision to cancel this meeting in Dunblane for this year and to reschedule it for **next year 25th September 2021**. This decision was made in light of Scottish Government advice. It would appear that churches will not be fully open until Phase 3 of the easing of Lockdown, with no firm date given, but with social distancing; restaurants are likely to be subject to ongoing social distancing; and it would appear that public transport may cause problems for our membership given the age profile of many.

However! The suggestion was made this morning that perhaps we could make use of ZOOM technology and hold a short “virtual” meeting on 26th September 2020, from the comfort of our own homes. I am sure that some of you will have become familiar with this technology over the last 10 weeks! If not, it is fairly straightforward and I am sure younger generations in the family would be able to advise! Ahead of the meeting, a link would be sent in an email to everyone who wishes to take part, and at the scheduled time, everyone would be able to use the link to take part – and we would all be able to see one another and chat with one another, and share news for about an hour.

So, if you would be interested in being part of such a meeting in September, **please let me know as soon as possible so that we can gauge the level of interest**. We hope it might be possible to have a guest share a short reflection with us on that day.

Remember also the request made last autumn to share in writing some memories of your time overseas (no more than 500 words) and also any photos so that we can perhaps have them collated into a booklet after our final meeting in 2021.

Remember to have a look at our website www.fost.org.uk for further updates and I look forward to hearing from those who would wish take part in the virtual Gathering on 26th September, preferably before our next ZOOM committee meeting on 6th July 2020.

God’s blessing on you and your loved ones – and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew

1st June 2020