



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

27<sup>th</sup> July, 2020

#### Hello

Slowly easing out of lockdown, we ponder on what the 'new normal' should be.

#### Sunday Sermon: 'The New Normal'

Continuing the series based on Jesus' action in cleansing the Temple in John 2, and focusing on the verse from Psalm 69 quoted there (*Zeal for your house has consumed me*) John Macleod stressed that, although the NT teaches that we – as individuals and as a church – are God's temple there is much that we can learn from Jesus' attitude towards the Temple of his day. For example:

Jesus' anger reveals the depth of his concern about the misuse of the Temple. Essentially, it is a place of worship, true worship of a holy God; but it was being transformed into a market place. It shows how much he cares about right worship – an aspect that we should also be concerned about.

Jesus' action in expressing such strong, righteous, anger affirms his character as the Messiah, the Son of God, Immanuel, God incarnate. If we are to have a similar passion then we need to be more 'like Jesus' – holy, godly and passionate.

And, he defined the purpose of the Temple – and the church – as being 'his Father's house', a warm, secure, welcoming place whose business is entirely concerned with the glory and kingdom of God. That should be our priority, too.

#### Virtual Keswick

Keswick Ministries are offering a 'virtual Keswick' on-line this week to compensate for the cancelling of the normal 3-week Convention. It can be accessed on: [www.keswickministries.org](http://www.keswickministries.org)

The daily programme is:

**Bible Readings** each morning at 10 am when Christopher Ash will speak on Hope in Jesus from the Psalms.

**Evening Meetings** at 8 pm each evening with various speakers.

**Seminars** and specialist meetings as advertised.

#### Bible Study

The Thursday evening Bible Study series on *Getting to Know Your Bible* was originally planned for seven afternoons but, when switched to a Thursday Zoom session, due to Covid 19, it was extended because of the additional weeks available to us. Taking longer over each section means that we are only now coming to the end of the Old Testament.

That seems an opportune time to take a break. Therefore, this Thursday's session will be the last for the time being. We may, DV, start up in September to resume with an overview of the New Testament.

*Thy Word is a Light to my path*

## Services in the Church

Yesterday saw another occasion when we were able to meet together in two separate groups for identical services.

That arrangement is likely to continue during the immediate future with regulated attendance. There is limited capacity due to social distancing. Nearly all places were taken up but there is still room. If you would like to start attending please contact an elder.

*Jim Gourley adds:* During August our Sunday worship services will continue to be at 10.30am and 6.30pm and will also be recorded and available on the church Web Site. The weekly Prayer Meeting on Tuesdays will be held via Zoom and telephone as previously at 8pm.

During August the Morning Prayer meetings and Bible Studies will not take place.

## More verses from Betty

He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. (53: 3); Ho every one that thirsteth come to the waters and he that hath no money come (55: 1); The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to

## Finally

I visited a restaurant days after our return to church. Whilst the food and company was good, the visit became annoying as I saw things that are not allowed in church: people sitting in groups with no masks all talking, whilst we are not allowed to sing; people vacating tables to be replaced by new folks, whilst we are having to be so stringent with seating. It reminded me that one of the great problems throughout this period has been the inconsistencies in advice and practice by the Governments. What a reminder to Christians that our life must be consistent with our faith, especially if we want the Gospel to be taken seriously.

preach good tidings unto the weak and bind up the broken hearted. (61: 1); Thus saith the Lord, 'Heaven is my throne and the earth my footstool'. (66: 1)

## People

We hear that Margaret Cowan has been admitted to the Langlands Unit in QEUH with a chest infection. Pray for her and for George at this stressful time. Joyce Kyle wishes to thank everyone for praying for her as she is confined to the one room during this lockdown period. Others in the Fellowship, like Morag Wilson and Christine Crosbie with dental problems, appreciate our prayers for them in these difficult days.

## Songs of Praise

A virtual Songs of Praise was held on Friday night, using Zoom, with an encouraging 'attendance'. John Macleod, Donald Crosbie, Ann Jones, Jack Adair and Ava shared hymns that mean something to them and a word explaining why. Janice Allan, David Jack and Danny made up the rest of the 'cast'. And, though 'muted' the aspiring songsters joined in heartily!

John Macleod