



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

10<sup>th</sup> August, 2020

#### Hello

Welcome to the 20<sup>th</sup> issue of your Newsletter and thanks to all who contribute.

#### Sunday Sermon: Jeremiah 7: 1 - 15

Among the many descriptions of the Temple quoted by the Lord Jesus during His act of cleansing the Temple, the one from Jeremiah 7 – ‘den of robbers’ stands in stark contrast to the others.

Three previous descriptions – each taken from the OT – set out clearly what the Temple was, and should be. These are:

My Father’s House – not just a physical building, however impressive, but a place where God dwells and meets with His people in spiritual intimacy; a place of sincere worship.

A House of Prayer for all nations – a functioning place where genuine, mission-focused, prayer to God and for others is effectively exercised.

The House that bears my name – a place where God’s identity is clearly established and reflects the character and attributes of a holy God.

Yet, those who frequented the temple had let it degenerate, not through lack of activity, but by ‘fake sincerity’: complacently depending on outward rituals rather than on genuine devotion.

As we pursue the ‘new normal’ we need to make sure it embodies these positives and not be classified as a ‘den of robbers’.

#### Reflections on Lockdown experiences

Margaret Baird writes: *As someone who is a bit of a worrier and who likes routine, the last few months have been a challenge. The Lord has been speaking clearly through it.*

- *He reminds me that my times are in His hands.*
- *I need to trust Him completely.*
- *I need to seek Him over everything else, not for what he can do for me, but because He is God.*
- *Thankfully He is patient with us!*

#### Bible Study

The Thursday Bible Study series on the Old Testament has now come to an end. A summary has been prepared which is included in the church website or can be obtained as an A5 booklet on request.

#### Myra’s Wells

Morag Wilson writes about a **Myra’s Wells Update, Live Zoom Event** being held on **Monday, 10th August at 7.30pm**. *It is an amazing story of God’s provision through "Myra’s Wells", founded by Eddie Martin, who decided to provide a well in memory of his wife, Myra, known to many Allander folk, who was tragically killed. The Lord opened up the way for Eddie to continue this work and for it to grow and help many people to have clean water and*

*also hear the gospel. The Meeting ID is 835 7282 4957 and Password: 273264*

*Sonja, who sings at the Meeting, produced a CD featuring a selection of favourite hymns from the Believer's Hymn Book which some Allander members purchased with the proceeds going to "Myra's Wells". Some of these CDs are still available.*

### **Sunday Services**

The current arrangements of duplicate services at 10 30 am and 6 30 pm will continue through August. To make best use of the seating restrictions we are working under, could you please advise your elder if you do not plan to attend a service, so that your seat can be given to someone else wishing to do so. Thank you.

John Macleod will be on holiday weeks beginning 24th and 31st August. Howel Jones will be speaking at both services on 30<sup>th</sup> August.

### **Finance**

Twice in the past twenty weeks of Lockdown we have been reminded that, although the church building was closed with no weekly offerings being uplifted,

### **Finally**

The first time I preached at my friend's church in North Carolina was my first experience of preaching the same sermon three times in a row. They had services at 8.00, 10.00 and 12.00. Having never done this before, I asked my friend, "You really want me to preach the same sermon three times?" "Absolutely", he replied, "you get it right by the third time!" I have thought of this often over the last few weeks as I have preached the 'same sermon' three times; once for recording and then on Sunday mornings and evenings; but what I have discovered is that it is never the same sermon. God knows each audience, God knows each person and each situation and so, even though my notes and preparation do not change, God always has something fresh to say.

there would continue to be expenditure required to meet the on-going liabilities of the church. We are pleased to report that the balance in the accounts has been maintained over the past few months and at the end of July was a little higher than at the end of April. We would therefore offer our thanks to all who have faithfully continued to give and who have proved to be good stewards of what the Lord has entrusted to you. 2 Cor. 9:7.

### **Children for Christ - Romania**

In common with many other activities throughout the world, the Copii pentru Cristos (CpC) camps, which would have normally been held at Varfurile, Romania, during the summer months have not taken place, which has resulted in some 500 children being deprived of hearing the Gospel during a week of Christian activities. Consideration is now being given to the possibility of holding weekend camps and monthly training days during the winter, but this will depend on the suppression or otherwise of the Covid 19 pandemic.

John Macleod