



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER



1<sup>st</sup> March, 2021

Welcome to this St David's Day edition of the Allander Church Fellowship Newsletter.

#### Sunday Sermon: John Speirs

Sharing in our service as Guest Speaker, John Speirs, reflecting on the hardships of a year-long pandemic, spoke about **A River of Tears** based on references in three Psalms.

In Psalm 137 there is a focus on tears when *singing*. In exile because of their sins, the Israelites remembered life as it had been and all the blessings of God they had enjoyed – even though they had despised them then. Now, in corrective captivity, they could not sing those songs of Zion when they realised how far they had wandered from God.

In Psalm 126 they were tears associated with *sowing*. Now, restored and back in their native land, they saw its devastation and so sacrificially spared the available grain from immediate consumption but used it to sow for the future and their continued life as the redeemed people of God back in their land. That sacrifice – abandoning immediate pleasure for the sake of eternal values – cost them dearly hence the tears.

Psalm 30's tears arose out of *sorrow* as David remembered all the harrowing experiences he had undergone in his faithful pursuit as "*a man after God's heart*". The Lord Jesus himself had known what it was to be the 'Man of Sorrows' when he wept at the gate of Jerusalem, the grave of Lazarus and in the Garden of Gethsemane – all part of his atoning love for us on the Cross.

But, one day, he will wipe away all tears.  
*What a day, glorious day, that will be!*

#### Sunday Ministry

It was good to have John Speirs minister to us yesterday. We look forward to Sam Gordon being with us this coming Sunday to share the word.

#### #One2Seven

The Easter series of #One2Seven on the theme of From Darkness to Light gets under way this week. From Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March there will be a weekly broadcast from 6 30 to 7 pm. Do pray for those involved and especially that there will be good and effective take-up of this evangelistic outreach which has suffered so much during lockdown. The programmes can be accessed through the church website:

[www.allanderchurch.org.uk](http://www.allanderchurch.org.uk)

#### Reflection on Ministry

Over the last two months God has spoken very clearly to us, so it is appropriate to ask ourselves: what exactly has He said and what are its implications for us as individuals and as a church? If our Christian life and testimony is presented as our building, the erecting of a structure on the foundation that God has provided, then our life should reflect the uniqueness of Jesus – his eternal nature, his being our Saviour, what he was and how he lived on earth, his death and, especially, his resurrection which gives significance to the words: *Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

#### Some Welsh Rarebits

Here is one verse from a 1000-line long epic poem depicting the life of Christ by prolific Welsh hymnwriter, William Williams,

*He came to heal our sinfulness by being  
wounded Himself  
The Heir of Heaven dying to save the soul  
of man.  
For me, sucked out the poison injected by  
the Snake  
And from that deadly poison he perished  
for my sake*

And the epigrammatic poem on the  
memorial stone to revivalist Evan Roberts,  
reflecting on the Welsh Revival and its  
impact on the communities:

*Whole districts on their knees – what is  
this?  
Hope for a lost generation.  
God convicting; man repenting,  
Foretaste of His Kingdom coming.*

O to see such an outbreak of revival again  
in our land.

### **Holy Week series**

Arrangements are being made for a virtual  
set of Holy Week services from Monday  
29<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April during which  
Milngavie ministers will conduct a service  
each evening at 7 pm on YouTube. The  
link is:

<https://www.milngavie.church/holyweek/>

### **Prayer meeting**

Jim Gourley writes: The evening with  
James Fraser was very challenging so  
please pray for him and the ongoing work  
of Release International. Should you wish

to receive more information on the  
organisation please contact Jim Gourley.  
The following are available: News and  
Prayer updates; Magazine; Persecution  
Trends 2021; Lockdown Church 2021;  
Christian persecution in Iran; how to  
donate; and a 'live' event by Zoom on  
11th March at 7.30pm. Jim will advise  
how to obtain what you wish.

This week, Eddie Martin of Myra's Wells  
will be with us at the Prayer Meeting on  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, to talk about the work  
of that mission.

### **Easing of restrictions**

The latest 'roadmap' published by the  
Scottish Government indicates that places  
of worship may be opened from 5<sup>th</sup> April  
(may even be Easter Sunday) but no detail  
yet as to what restrictions, if any, will  
apply. That is welcome news, especially  
for those who have felt the isolation  
keenly and have not been able to keep in  
touch electronically.

### **Pray for:**

Alongside our regular list of people who  
need our prayers we add some current  
needs: Anna and Netta Gardner, Inga, Ian  
Baird, Morag Hutchison, Allyson Flett,  
Mary Atwell, Jean Wilson, Morag and  
David Wilson.

### **Finally,**

It's St David's day today, which got me thinking about the flower it represents - the Daffodil. Spring is coming and we see new life in plants. New buds are appearing. This made me think of the past year and Covid. New beginnings for us all once again. We are hopefully going to move out of lockdown sometime soon. For us as Christians we can have new beginnings every day by our daily readings. We learn something new of God's love and care for us; it shows us more of Jesus and his love for each one of us; what great assurances we have of his guidance in whom we can trust for the future in our daily lives. He is our councillor comforter and our helper. Trust him completely, and say with Paul: "*I can do everything through him who gives us strength.*" Philippians 4-13

Jim Flett