



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER



21st December, 2020

Hello

This is our Christmas Newsletter – a little different in layout and content from the 38 issues that have gone out so far this year. During that time we have been encouraged and challenged by various themes that have been brought before us: faith, hope, dedication, etc. One thing is certain that, to be children of God, 'born again to a new and living hope', having a God who looks over us and yet is working out His purposes, is a real privilege. That



makes us respond in two ways: thanking him for being our Saviour - Shepherd, and being concerned for others who have not yet come into (or are neglecting) this great privilege.

The Power of the Crib Luke 2: 8-20

Continuing the Advent series of 'PC' sermons, John reminded us that, while the world seeks spectacular symbols to represent power, God chooses weak ones: yet none more powerful than the Cross "*so despised by the world*". Similarly, in heralding the birth of the Lord Jesus He featured a crib. That Crib shows:

The power of bringing heaven to earth, of Immanuel, of God within reach, of the spiritual being made accessible to the natural.

The power to raise the lowly, of bringing "*good news to the poor*", of a message that brings hope to everyone, that can "*raise the fallen, cheer the faint*"; that means to "*seek and to save that which was lost*".

The power to save, to forgive our sins, to transform our lives, to give new life and access to heaven and eternal life - and all that His salvation can mean.

But, to benefit, we need to listen, go and see for ourselves, respond, believe and follow.

In an outwardly diminished Christmas, due to the pandemic and its devastation, this can be the most meaningful Christmas for us if we go to that Powerful Crib, accept its Gift and prove the power of Christ for now and for eternity.

Christmas Eve Service
Remember the **Christmas Eve Service**
on **Thursday 24th December at 7pm**,
lasting 50 minutes or so. Seats may
be limited but if you still want a place
then please contact Jim Gourley by
text, 0784 191 1923.

Flora

Flora suffered a fall on Monday and fractured her leg / knee cap, leaving her in pain and immobilised. Please pray for Flora, who has done so much to pray for and to show care to others and now needs comfort for herself.

Reflections

Reflecting on a delayed answer to prayer: George Cowan was helped in reading the following comment on Exodus 13: 17: "When God led the Israelites out of Egypt He chose a longer way because the 'shortcut' was fraught with risk".

Greetings

Joyce Kyle writes: 'To all the friends at Allander - Thanks for all your prayers. SEASONS GREETINGS, from Joyce K, xx

Margaret Stewart shares: Look Up to God, Lap Up His Word, Lay Up treasures in heaven. Phone 956 5866 with greetings or send to howeliones@outlook.com

Translation of an old Welsh Carol traditionally sung at a daybreak service on Christmas Day

*God purposed that on this day - as a babe
Appeared the Root of Jesse - as a babe
The Crimsoned One from Bozrah, Lawgiver
from Mount Sinai,
The Lamb from Mount Moriah, - as a babe,
Nurtured by maiden Mary - as a babe*

*Ezekiel's Living Water - on Mary's knee
And Daniel's Mighty Champion - on
Mary's knee
The Servant from Isaiah, The Covenant
with Adam,
The Alpha and Omega - on Mary's knee;
In Bethlehem in Judah - on Mary's knee*

*Christ laid aside his glory - willingly
To vict'ry on mount Zion - willingly
He bowed his head so holy, beneath a
crown so thorny,
In merciful humility - willingly
To pardon guilty sinners - willingly.*

*So now, poor sinner, hurry - as you are
To seek eternal solace - as you are,
For you a Fount was opened, to cleanse
your great transgressions,
As white as Hebron's snow cap- as you
are
Trust now, for full salvation - as you are.*

Last Week's events

The AGM conducted by Zoom for the first time went well with thanks to God for His provision and for the hard work by so many over the past year and more.

It was good to be able to set aside Friday as a day of Prayer. Following the day's guidelines we were able to focus on our own walk with God, the work represented by the church, witness to the community and the wider world and responding to the challenge: where do we go from here?

The Fellowship Evening - not tried in that way before - proved a blessed time. Not only did Manuel and Ava share how they had become Christians but how they had been guided to Allander and enveloped with kindness. Others shared with the dominant theme being the acknowledgement of the value of prayer - for the work and for each other.

The Light of high heaven
To mankind was given
When Jesus was born.
The Word in flesh dwelling,
The love of God telling
That first Christmas morn.

Unto you is
born this
day, a
Saviour.



Come now,
let us go
and see!

Happy and Blessed
Christmas to everyone