



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

4th January, 2021

Hello

Welcome to 2021 with its challenges and opportunities: it is yet another year of grace.

Building to last – 1 Corinthians 3: 10-17

While New Year is traditionally a time of reflection, this year - because of the effects of the 2020 Covid situation - calls for deeper consideration of what life is all about and where priorities should lie.

While that applies to individuals it also, in our case, concerns the church – the corporate body of believers throughout the ages and across the world and its local expression.

From God's perspective it is important to realise again that the church is God's: He owns it. It is not ours nor should it be divided by personal preferences. The sad defending of rival sub-divisions in the Corinthian church – or any other – is grievous to God: unity should be one of its hallmarks.

God values the church which He brings into being comprising every member as an active component in a Temple - a dwelling place for God by the Spirit and based on the one foundation: Jesus Christ.

For that to happen we have a corporate responsibility to build with care, based on the right foundation and using materials that are durable; for our work will be tested. Choosing easy materials like wood, hay or stubble will not prove fire resistant while gold, silver or precious stones will.

That should lead to a response that ensures commitment as individual members of a corporate body, working together, to ensure that we are building something that will last for eternity.

Sympathy

We extend our sincere sympathy to Jim McKellar on the passing of his wife, Helen, on Sunday 27th December, after a protracted illness. Since Helen was admitted to a Care Home, Jim has been meeting with us on Sunday evenings. He, in turn, appreciates the many prayers sent up by Allander folk on their behalf.

Bible Study

After a break over the busy Christmas period the Zoom Bible Studies will, DV, resume on Thursday, 14th January, 2021 at 7 30 pm. In these studies we will spend time on each book, starting with Genesis. Access details are the same as for all Allander meetings. The sharing of thoughts has been a wonderful feature of these times, so the 'homework' for this first meeting is to share any Scripture or incident from Genesis.

The Faith Mission

The monthly FM Prayer Union meeting will take place on Monday 11th January by Zoom at 7 30 pm. Access details are: Meeting ID: 770 6265 8756; Passcode: 1cRLbp

FM Week of Prayer

In accordance with many Christian agencies the Faith Mission is calling for a Week of Prayer from Monday 11th January to Sunday 17th January 2021. Guidelines are available for prayer topics each day. Contact Howel at 0141 956 5866 or howeljones@aoutlook.com.

Mission of the Month

Our Mission of the Month for December was **Children for Christ** and its work in Romania. Like so many others, disappointed that its key work of running camps for children was not possible because of Covid, there were encouragements, such as a visit from a lady who had attended camps several years previously and wanted to express her appreciation for what they had meant to her. Pray that the camps will be possible this coming summer. Our December Mission of the Month contribution for them was £200. Next month it will be Platform 67.

Prayer Meeting

The Prayer Meetings on Tuesday at 8pm and the additional times on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 10am are now resumed and provide a good focus for prayer that God will bless the work at Allander in the coming year, whatever it may hold for us.



Prayer for people

There are a number of prayer concerns for people linked – directly or indirectly – with the fellowship for our attention: Flora has a second splint for her fractured kneecap which is quite burdensome and uncomfortable; David Jack's grandchildren – Fiona and Stuart – have tested positive for Covid and are in isolation; baby Ezra Ballingall (Ian and Margaret Baird's relative) is now out of ICU but waiting a brain scan; Jim and Allyson's grandchildren have had to return to Japan because of lockdown at their boarding school in Wales. Others we remember regularly are: Mary Atwell, Ian and Margaret Baird, Liz Baxter, Ian and Irene Carmichael, George and Margaret Cowan, Anna and Netta Gardner, Jack and Christine Harvey, Jing, Joyce Kyle, Jim McKellar in his bereavement, Irene MacPhee, David and Morag Wilson, Gordon Craig and Carol Macleod working in the care sector, Jack Adair seeking employment having qualified with degree in law; and so many others of our folk very much on their own with severe restrictions continuing.

Finally

As you read this Newsletter we will have entered into 2021. Looking back on last year one thing it will be remembered for is the Covid virus. World-wide, the virus has taken many lives, severely affected many others - both physically and mentally - and the scars will remain for years to come. In the light of all this, people are looking for hope as they live out their lives. The greatest hope we can have was spoken of by the Apostle Peter "*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade kept in heaven for you*". That is the great Christian hope we have and why our message in 2020 on our church banner has been Faith not Fear. We pray that in 2021 our Faith will hold fast in Jesus and that others we love will come to know him as their Saviour and Lord.

Allander Fellowship Newsletter 956 5866

Jim Gourley

"Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." 1 Peter 5: 7