



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

7th December, 2020

The Promised Child Luke 1: 26 - 38

One of the outstanding features of the Christmas story is the birth of Jesus in fulfilment of the promises of God in Scripture. Tracing back some of those promises we come across:

Genesis 3: 15 where, in the context of the great catastrophe that benighted mankind, God immediately announced (to Satan, first) that the Promised Child would destroy the enemy of souls by bruising Satan's head. In his life Jesus did just that – destroying principalities and powers by his Cross.

Genesis 15: 4 where God's promise to a barren couple – Abraham and Sarah – that they would have their own son, not a servant substitute, would ensure the existence – as children of promise – of a people for God. And those who accept Abraham's greater son, Jesus, could also become part of that people.

2 Samuel 7: 11 where David's son would establish a house for God and a kingdom – a promise that was fulfilled in the "*One who is greater than Solomon*" for Jesus established, through his earthy ministry, as the incarnate Christ the kingdom of God where his will would be done on earth as in heaven.

Luke 2: 14 where the Promised Child would bring peace on earth – a peace that passes understanding achieved "*by the blood of his cross*".

John 1: 12 where receiving that Promised Child by faith means that such believers can become the children of God

December Meetings

December looks like being a busy month for us at Allander with:

A Day of Prayer

During this period there has been an emphasis on prayer. Indeed, one of the recent sermons was on "*The pivotal place of prayer*"- an aspect that has been ominously absent from any consideration by the secular authorities. In addition to the regular – and increased – praying at our Zoom meetings, the Elders have arranged to set aside a special Day of Prayer. This will be held on Friday 18th December, giving people the opportunity to focus on the church, the country and the world from their own homes and in their own time. The objective is that on the same day we come and pray in line with the outline we will provide nearer to the day.

A Fellowship Evening

Then, on the following evening, Saturday 19th December (not Friday 18th as previously intimated) at 7.30 pm we will hold a Fellowship Evening which is an opportunity to reflect, like Paul, on the "*help that we have received from God*" during these strange months. This will be an opportunity to share together from our experiences during the pandemic and communicate what it means to be a Christian at this time.

Christmas Eve Service

Within the current restrictions it will be possible for us to gather together in the church building for a Christmas Eve

Service on Thursday 24th December at 7.00 pm, lasting 50 minutes. If you wish to attend, then please advise Jim Gourley by text, telephone 0784 191 1923, or e-mail jgourley1944@outlook.com as soon as possible and not later than Sunday 20th December so that seating arrangements can be made.

Children's Online Club

The first three sessions have gone very well with some encouraging responses from children (and their parents) who have been watching and taking part. Two more sessions to go. Hopefully, DV, there will be a new series in the New Year.

Advance Notice

A Zoom meeting in lieu of an Annual General Meeting for members will take place on Thursday 17th December at 7.30 pm. An Agenda will be issued prior to the meeting.

Zoom access for both the AGM and Fellowship Meeting is same as for Prayer meeting: ID: 819 2022 9424; Password: 047533

People and Prayer

We continue to remember all those with long-term illness or facing continuing difficult circumstances. As a prayer reminder we publish the list we issued some weeks back - with apologies to anyone missed out.

Finally (Jim Flett)

After a very different 2020, Christmas is almost here. It is a time when we love spending time with family; a time we all love to give gifts to our loved ones and friends. So, let us not forget the greatest gift of all: the birth of our Saviour Jesus, called Emmanuel (God with us). As we ponder the mystery of it all, with wonder and amazement, we see the simplicity of his birth: born in Bethlehem, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger that animals would have used. There was no room for him at the inn. In Luke 2:10 the angels said: *Fear not for I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.* After the very different year 2020 has been, we have the great assurance of our Saviour's birth.

*Joy to the world, the Lord has come - Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare him room - And heaven and nature sing*

Jack Adair; Janice Allan; Ian Baird; Liz Baxter, Stuart Campbell; Ian and Irene Carmichael; George and Margaret Cowan; Gordon Craig; Jean Donnelly; Anna and Netta Gardner; Jack and Christine Harvey; Joyce Kyle; Mary Linton; Andrew, Bethany and Carol Macleod; Jean Malkin; Jim and Helen McKellar; David and Morag Wilson.

Tom McDowall (Irene Carmichael's father) is home from QEUH with no surgery needed for the broken hip.

Bible Study

This Thursday will be the last of the Bible Studies for this year and the end of our overview of the Bible as a whole. Over the year we have looked at the whole Bible covering the OT before the summer and the NT since September. A booklet summary will be available covering the NT sections. Then, DV, we plan to start up again on Thursday 14th January when we start looking at whole books, one at a time, starting with Genesis.

Faith Mission

Many thanks to all who gave donations for Faith Mission which was the Mission Cause of the Month for November. A sum of £180 has been given to Gordon Thomson for the work of the Mission.