



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

10th January, 2022

New Year Greetings

This past year has been one of *survival* where we have come through “with the help of our God”. So, we look forward to a new year with all of its opportunity to *thrive*, grow, bear fruit and see the Lord’s purposes fulfilled. We can be encouraged by words from several quarters. For example, the Elders share their thoughts:

Just a closer walk with Thee, grant it Jesus, this my plea. This chorus is easy to sing but very profound. My prayer for the year ahead is that this will be the experience of all of us.



"Finally, brethren, PRAY FOR US, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:" 2 Thess, 3: 1



2021 was hard for many people but Isaiah offers encouragement: The Lord gives strength to the weary and power to the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. Have a Blessed 2022.



"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43: 18, 19

D A Carson said "We do not pray because we do not plan to pray" As we have entered a New Year let us all make a daily prayer plan to pray throughout this year giving priority to it in all our lives and may God bless us all.

We can also learn from worldly wisdom. This time last year David Jack shared this quotation from King George VI's famous New Year Message:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

The preaching ministry and church activities encourage going forward in faith:



Sunday Sermons

Over the past two weeks, following the focus on the coming of the Saviour at Christmas, the ministry has been looking forward to what God has in store for us as we move ahead and progress from survival to thriving.

It began with Paul's commitment in Philippians 3 to forget (the experience but not the lessons learned from) what was behind and to press on to know, experience and live out, what it meant to be a Christ-like Christian. He, himself, strove to realise and manifest the purpose for which God had called him.

That 'pressing on' means determination to take positive action, concentration based on wise choices and priorities, conviction that motivates in single-minded action and a clear sense of direction. It is a matter of choice: forgetting and pressing on.

Passion for Life

A Passion for Life is a national, inter-denominational, movement concentrating on evangelising our nation with a specific focus on Easter 2022. To make the most of the Easter week, we seek to prepare by encouraging church members to consider how they can do what God has planned for them as part of this mission. On January 15th, from 9 am to 12 noon, we will be sharing with other churches in our planning event as we study together what

it means for each of us to share the wonder of the message of eternal life with our community. Come along and listen to the video teachings from various leaders within Passion for Life. Come along and share in this preparation.

Mission of the Month

£625 was raised for The Space. January's M o M is A Passion for Life.

Services

As already indicated 'normal' services resume this week. That means: Sundays at 10 30 and 6 30; Toddlers (9 30am) and Prayer Meeting (8 00pm) on Tuesdays; Morning Prayer (9 00am, Zoom), Café (10 30am) and Hashtag (6 30pm), on Wednesdays; Ladies Meeting (2pm) on alternate Thursdays and Bible Study / Passion for Life (7 30) each Thursday – as intimated, and Morning Prayer (9 00am, Zoom) on Friday morning.

Ladies Meeting

The Ladies' Meeting resumes on Thursday at 2 pm with John Macleod as speaker.

Bible Study

The first Zoom Bible Study of this year will be held on Thursday, 13th January at 7 30pm based on Deuteronomy 1 – 3.

People and Projects

The fellowship and individuals still value prayers for them, their circumstances, and their work, both here and overseas. Some are facing significant challenges.

Finally, if we are to **thrive** in 2022, these important words of Scripture are salutary:

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chron. 7: 14

Why not make a tangible and definite commitment for 2022 to be actively involved in the Prayer Meetings, Bible Study, Passion for Life and outreach activities?