



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

18th April, 2022

Sunday Sermon: Easter

In a lively Easter morning Family service, the Sunday School children took part singing *Jesus Christ is alive today* and *He is risen*. They then recited the memory text in two languages: English and Sign Language. Then Ava, Hannah and Emma read from the Matthew 28 account of the resurrection of Jesus setting the scene for an Easter meditation.

The meditation focused on the followers' **confused expectation** for they were told: *he is not here* (in the tomb) as they expected but that *he is risen* as the Scripture had promised. That resulted in **confirmed experience** in that what he said he would do, he did for them: he gave his life for them. It resulted in **conflicting emotions**, for, having been told not to be afraid, they were filled with joy at this unexpected – but welcome happening.

As we reflect on what happened, it is clear that through his death - and now resurrection - God was doing something different. Jesus was the accepted sacrifice for our sins and, in the resurrection, he demonstrated his power over death. That gives us **real hope**.

Volunteers

While some additional folk have already volunteered to help out at Toddlers on Tuesday mornings and / or afternoons to make it possible to offer two sessions, thus doubling the capacity, there is still a shortfall so, additional volunteers are needed. Please speak to Margaret Baird, Flora McInnes or Jim Gourley if you think you could be of some help on a rota basis.

Maryhill Mission Week

Last week, our friends at Maryhill Evangelical Church held a week of outreach to the community. A team of volunteers had flown in from Kentucky to help reach out and their contribution was invaluable. Several families attended and were challenged with good gospel messages and benefitted from generous community involvement,

Mission of the Month

This month's mission cause is Street Connect. As we heard recently they contact the homeless and marginalised on the streets of Glasgow and Paisley and offer comfort, the gospel and a carefully worked out programme of recovery and re-establishment.

Community Magazine

The Community Magazine has proved to be a very effective means of promoting our activities. An advert appeared over Easter, a feature will appear in the May issue and another advert will be included in the June edition to advertise our Holiday Club.

Thank You

Covid has had an unexpected and serious effect on several of our people, especially the Elders, over the last few weeks. One of those effects is to increase the burden on those fit persons 'left standing' as it were. We are grateful for all the extra work carried out by stalwarts like Jim Flett – and others – and appreciate all the diligent practical work that goes on behind the scenes. Thank you, all.

Holiday Club

The Holiday Club will be held this year from Monday 27th June to Friday 1st July from 10 until 12 30 each day. Volunteer helpers are still needed. Please contact Jim Gourley.

Children for Christ

One of the tasks that were affected by depleted numbers was the sorting out of clothes, etc, for Children in Christ in Romania. Temporary, dedicated, storage space has now been acquired so that materials can be sorted out ready for transporting to the country. Thanks for all who did such a great job. Not all was processed so there will be another 10 30am session on Monday, 25th April at the church.

Holy Week

The Holy Week services were well attended with good ministry, an excellent presentation of the gospel and warm fellowship. The services coincided with Ramsay Shields' 25th anniversary as minister of St Luke's.

Barnabas Fund

A Supporters' Meeting for the Barnabas Fund will be held on Saturday 7th May, at 7.30pm in the Tron Central Church, 25 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 1HW.

The Meeting – open for anyone to attend
- is one of a series of meetings taking

place in various Scottish cities in May to enable people to hear updates on the work of the Barnabas Fund.

More on the Chinese Church's History

Over the past few weeks we have featured the wide-ranging activities of the Chinese Church, and Jing, as well as sketch something of its 88-year history. Here we add something about its development in contemporary times.

The decade of the 70's also saw the first release of a remarkable tool, known as Operation Timothy. There was a felt need for a discipleship tool to help men ignite their walk with Christ. Operation Timothy was designed to be used for one-on-one applications where a mentor (whom we call a Paul) sits down with someone wishing to know more (a Timothy) and together they embark upon a transformational journey of exploring Christ's word.

We hear from Jing that the Chinese church prays for us each day.

Pray for:

All those still on the sick list, recovering from Covid and other ailments, facing loneliness, pressure and various challenges at this time. And pray for the persecuted church in the many horrendous situations that exist.

Finally,

The blessing of another Easter week is behind us, and we were once again drawn into the raw emotion and profound spirituality of all that was happening as Jesus went to the Cross. The rollercoaster of emotion from Palm Sunday to Good Friday, the disappointment of his death, and then the glorious miracle of the resurrection. What a range of emotion Jesus' followers went through from great optimism to despair and then to confounded wonder. Little could they have known what lay ahead of them now that their Saviour was alive from the grave. Amazingly, God tells us that the same power which raised Jesus from the dead is now at work in the church so, with Easter behind us, we can look forward to all that the power of God will bring.

John Macleod