



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

20th December, 2021

As we look back on this another strange year with all the obstruction that Covid 19 has caused, we thank God for His grace and help to come through and for the eternal HOPE that we have in Him at a time when the world is increasingly feeling despair and despondency. Covid has not been beaten, despite declarations of confidence in human ability. At best, we are only in a state of 'damage limitation'. Only God knows the final solution.

But, because "*the Word was made flesh*" that first Christmas we have the assurance that through the sacrifice of that Life, so humbly presented, sin is vanquished terminally and we can look forward in total confidence to that overcoming experience. It is a **promise** that has been **fulfilled** and is now having, or should have, – an **effect** and a glorious **legacy**.

Advent Sermons

During Advent, with the focus on Second Thessalonians in our United Services, we have been reminded of the truth of the anticipated second coming of "*this same Jesus*" "*without* (having to pay the sacrifice for) *sin*" to complete salvation.

We were reminded that, when he returns, he will be known, he will effect punishment (on those who don't believe) and will be glorified. Until then we are to walk worthy of our calling.

There will, of course be opposition orchestrated by the 'man of lawlessness' but the coming Christ is victorious having destroyed the powers of darkness. In that comfort we can rejoice that we are loved, chosen, called and empowered.

The Thessalonians were commended for their fortitude and eagerness in being geared for mission, faithful in their trust and practical in living out a radiant testimony. It was a source of confidence and no reason for laziness or indifference. To them this blessed hope is a strong motivator.

But, as yesterday's traditional Christmas service reminded us, the Second Coming only offers hope to those who have trusted in the One who came as Saviour in the First.

Church Service Arrangements

Arrangements for services over Christmas and the New Year are:

Tuesday 21st December, Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 22nd, Drop-In Café
Friday 24th December, Candlelight Service
Sunday 26th December, Morning Worship
Tuesday 28th December, Prayer meeting
Wednesday 29th December, Drop-In Café
Friday 31st December,
1030pm Refreshments
11 15 Watchnight
Sunday 2nd January, Morning Worship
Tuesday 4th January Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 5th January
9am Zoom Prayer
10 30 Drop-In Cafe
Friday 7th January, 9am Prayer

This is how it stands at present.
Conditions and restrictions may need to change depending on government guidance

And, Finally:

Greetings from the Elders

When Gabriel appeared to Mary, he said that she had found favour with God and had been chosen to give birth to the Saviour, Jesus Christ. When someone remarked how blessed she was, Christ replied: "Blessed rather are those who HEAR the word of God and KEEP it."



Joy to the world, the Lord has come! Let earth receive her King, let every heart prepare Him room and heaven and nature sing----
These words have been going round in my head for days. May you all know the true joy of Christmas as we worship the Saviour who came into the world to save us sinners. Every blessing.

Christmas is a time for reflection, so let us reflect on Jesus, the Saviour of the world. Through him we have the greatest gift – forgiveness, salvation, hope and the promise of eternal life, as expressed in John 3: 16. What a great reason to celebrate.



For over two thousand years the Christian message has remained unchanged: *"God is with us"* While you may be feeling lonely or downhearted please know that God loves you and as a Christian will be with you always as we wait for Jesus coming again or until God calls us home.

"Christmas isn't Christmas 'til it happens in your heart." I love the simple truth of that carol as it reminds me every year how much we need to know the love of Jesus.



A blessed Christmas to all.