



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

26th April, 2021

The lasting Lessons of Love John 13: 1-17

Having completed His public ministry, Jesus now enters into private conversation with his followers preparing them for life without him and laying a template that they should follow in their behaviour and witness and as believers.

The menial act of washing their feet would not normally be carried out by a Leader but, in the absence of any of them doing it, Jesus himself – prophetically - undertook the task.

It was an act of tremendous humility when he served them in this way. It was a demonstration of the love of God towards his children. He came to the lowest position – as he had done in the incarnation and the Cross – to cleanse them – and us.

It was an act that served as an example, for it had a profound impact on how they should live. It was not by replicating the physical act but by adopting an attitude of loving humility and service. And in displaying that attitude, it would express their faith in practical ways.

It was an act that flowed from the greatest security for Jesus knew where he was going having “*finished the work you gave me to do*”. Like Him, we can be secure in acting –not naturally but spiritually – in the security of our position in Christ.

And it was an act that demonstrated the gospel. Jesus had come down to love them and they, - and we - in turn, having first responded to that love, should “*love one another as I have loved you*”.

More Reflections from Allyson

Continuing her reflections on the experiences of lockdown, Allyson Flett also shared the following encouraging Scriptures from Psalm 121:

Where does my help come from? *It comes from the Maker of the heaven and the earth.* (1, 2). The Lord watches over us: *He does not slumber or sleep.* (3, 4). Great assurance: can we imagine this? He never sleeps at his post, he watches over us all. (5, 6). God’s protection over us day and night (7, 8). And, God’s eternal protection now and forevermore.

Today, reading in Habakkuk, I saw that he was filled with the awe of God’s amazing works. In his deep need, God was faithful once again. He rejoiced in the Lord, *I will be joyful in the God of my salvation. The Sovereign Lord is my strength.* What a faithful God we have. Something we were reminded of on Sunday and, for me, to remember to praise him joyfully in good days and bad days. We have a faithful God who is always there for us and someone we can pray to anytime.

I need to keep my eyes always on the Lord. *With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.* (Ps 16: 8). When praying, I remember these words and put them into practice in my life.

Church Garden

Maintaining the church garden and the grounds around the church building contributes to a positive testimony. Weekly work on it will restart on Thursday 6th May at 9.30am until Noon.

The plan is to work each Thursday (weather permitting). It is all voluntary so anyone who can help in whatever capacity will be most welcome to join the work party. There will be a break for coffee and any baking will be welcome! More details if required from James Flett.

Communion

Starting in May, Communion will be celebrated at our Worship Services as follows:

- At the 10.30am service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.
- At the 6.30pm service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

When there are 5 Sundays in the month Communion will not be celebrated.

Mission of the Month

We have benefitted over the past few weeks from seeing video clips of the work of Slavic Gospel Association and look forward to supporting Myra's Wells enterprise as our Mission of the Month during May, starting next Sunday. Eddie Martin shared something of the work in a Zoom presentation back in March.

Christian Institute Week of Prayer

This week is the one set aside by the Christian Institute as a week of prayer for issues relating to our responsibility to be 'salt and light' as believers. Guideline

booklets for daily prayer topics have been made available in the Crush Hall or can be downloaded from the CI website. We are all encouraged to set time aside to pray for these topics.

Pray for:

Anna Gardner with Netta's funeral due on Wednesday 28th at 12.30pm.

Inga, with Wycliffe in Oaxaca in Mexico, coping with a heavy teaching role, translation tasks and dental problems.

Two of our hard-working leaders: David Jack with a painful hip and Ian Baird coping bravely with Parkinson's.

'Before they leave the Stage'

Heath Evangelical Church in Cardiff have launched a fascinating series of Sunday evening YouTube interviews with retired or elderly ministers associated with the church – many of them well-known - to learn from their experiences. The link is: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCn8_3_pc64dSQ3Uw_tkTUN2NmV3rW8en

Faith Mission Prayer Meeting

The next FM Prayer meeting will be held on Zoom on Monday, 3rd May, at 7.30 pm. Meeting ID: 767 2430 3942; Passcode: j5sc4T

Finally,

Some people had an opinion on the trial of George Floyd. The word on the street was that there would be riots and mayhem if the accused was found "not guilty". What a burden the jury carried. We read in Scripture that Jerusalem was in a near state of riot at the time of the trial of Jesus. The crowds bayed for His blood, the disciples buckled in fear, Pilate abandoned justice, despite knowing that Jesus was innocent. We read in Isaiah 40 that even the youths and young men will faint, grow weary and utterly fall. How can we, as weak people, ever stand and follow Christ? Isaiah 40 verses 29 and 31 says, *"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might, He increases strength. They that WAIT upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint".*

Sandy Allan