

ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

3rd May, 2021

The dark Night of Betrayal John 13: 18-30

Significantly coinciding with the first occasion we were able to celebrate Communion after an enforced absence, the focus of today's sermon was the Last Supper where Judas went out "*and it was night*".

That action was both literal and very symbolic, for it shows that:

Darkness cannot erase light. However dark a situation might be, the existence of light, however small, penetrates it. Light survives in the darkness. Lest the disciples were not aware of it, Jesus, quoting the Psalms and also making his own statement, warned them that darkness existed even in that blessed situation.

Paradoxically, we live in a kind of 'twilight zone' not fully understanding nor appreciating the co-existence of darkness and light in our environment and beings.

Darkness is disturbing. While we may not readily perceive the awfulness of darkness, Jesus was acutely aware of it and was deeply concerned that darkness was so operational in the world he had come to inhabit in his incarnation. He was troubled by what he saw especially when he handed Judas the bread knowing that Satan was about to enter Judas' heart. That should also disturb us: the potential to "love darkness rather than light". But, in his redemptive work,

Jesus puts darkness to flight. Whereas darkness sought to crush him He crushed darkness. He is the light of the world and so, abiding in him, we should always endeavour to walk in that light.

Greetings

Joyce Kyle, still largely confined to her room in Almond View Home at Drumchapel, sends her greetings to all her friends in Allander and thanks us for our prayers for her, as we appreciate her prayers and concern for us.

Communion

A reminder that 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.

Church Garden

The volunteer party will start work this Thursday on the church garden and grounds. Nine – Thirty to 12 noon with a coffee break!

Mission of the Month

The Mission we will support this month is Myra's Wells, founded by Eddie Martin in memory of his late wife, and engaged in providing reliable, clean, water supplies in African villages.

Community Magazine

We have a quarter-page advert in this month's Community Magazine inviting people to Allander Church to enhance their spiritual well-being. Please pray that people will notice it and respond by attending one of our services.

Funeral

Netta Gardner's funeral took place on Wednesday of last week with extended numbers at the church and in glorious weather at the Western Necropolis. It was a fitting farewell, with glowing tributes to a faithful servant. Our prayers are with Anna.

Finance

We are very thankful to God that in His gracious providence we received from the estate of the late Anne Wilson the sum of £26,774.60. This blessing is such an encouragement at a time when we had laid out monies toward the renewal of part of the roof and the renovation of the Crush Hall. As the Elders discussed this provision, they decided that we as a body, should exercise what we believe is the responsibility of each member, and give generously to the work of our Lord. As we have with previous legacies, we decided to tithe what we received and share the blessing with various missions. To that end we have forwarded the sum of £500 to each of the following Missions: Hope for Glasgow, Street Connect, The Christian Institute, Slavic Gospel Association, Platform 67 and the Barnabas Fund. The total sum given will be more than 10% of what was received but we believe this reflects the Biblical teaching on giving rather than a legalistic approach to tithing. We also divided the concerns towards ministries that work locally, nationally and internationally.

Finally,

One of the ironies regarding the forthcoming election is the way each party makes so much about the environment but then on a daily basis bombards letterboxes with mountains of leaflets which will inevitably end up in the bin! It may seem trivial but even such a minor issue can reveal how little they really care about the things they profess to hold as priorities. Real belief should bring real action and certainly when it comes to Jesus we see how clearly the conviction of GOD manifested in powerful action from washing his disciples' feet to dying on a Cross.

John Macleod

Pray for:

David Jack going in for investigative tests for his painful hip.

Encouraging health news for Jim Gourley after his recent surgery.

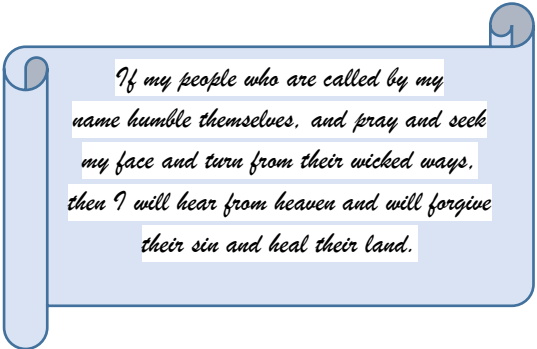
Others of our number still coping with various ailments and challenging situations.

Bible Study

The Bible Study over the last few weeks has been considering the wonderful events on Mount Sinai with the giving of the Ten Commandments, the pattern for the Tabernacle and confirmation of God's wonderful purposes for His people. Meanwhile, at ground level, it was a very different story. That is the subject of this week's session as told in chapter 32 – 34.

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



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