



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

30<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

#### Sunday Sermon: Isaiah 66: 2, Acts 7: 49

Yesterday's service and sermon combined consideration of another *Question God asks* with reflection on the Week of Prayer which came to an end on Sunday. Both are very relevant to the situation we find ourselves in, seeking to re-establish patterns after such a lengthy lockdown.

The critical question, quoted from Isaiah by Stephen in Acts 7, is: *What kind of house will you build for me?*

From the early days in Israel's history, the emphasis had been on the physical appearance of a 'dwelling place for God'. The same applies today. It is a natural motivation, and commended, but here God warns that the essence of worship is the realisation of, and response to, the revelation of a saving relationship with God. Rather than a place, Jesus told the 'woman of Samaria' that *"they that worship God must do so in spirit and in truth"* So, as we look ahead, what kind of house can / should we build for God?

Concern for that was reflected in the emphases of prayers during the past week. They focused on the realisation that God has a clear **purpose**. That purpose is to see a people come into being; a people saved by God's redeeming intervention; a people obedient to His word; and a people whose lives reflect His glory: inspiring expressed in the words of the 'Lord's Prayer'. In short, His **presence**.

The onus is on us to continue making that our **priority** rather than our own needs or aspirations and see it manifest in the **practical** activities soon to be launched.

#### Start Up Week

This week will see the start-up of several of our activities, some of them new, some after nearly two years' suspension because of the pandemic.

The first will be our new venture. **The Drop-In Café** on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> September, from 10 30 to 12 30pm, is intended to provide a point of contact for those who may have lost touch with the church and, more importantly, a place where they can come and share their concerns and learn more about the peace that comes through the gospel message.

Next comes **#One2Seven** which will be led by our CEF helpers, Simon and Hannah Snodgrass. It runs from 6 30 to 7 45 on the same Wednesday (September 1<sup>st</sup>).

**Helpers are required for each of these activities on a rota basis. Please contact John or Jim Gourley if you can help. Invitation cards and flyers are also available for use in inviting others.**

The new series of **Bible Study** launches on the next day, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 7 30 pm on Zoom. This will be a revision session looking again at the Book of Genesis with an opportunity to share insights or incidents from that book.

In between – on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> at 8 pm in the church and on Wednesday and Friday morning on Zoom from 9 00 to 9 30 --we have our regular times of **prayer**.

The following week will see **Allander Toddler Time** starting up on Tuesday morning, 7<sup>th</sup> September.

*Please pray for all these.*

## Mission of the Month

Last Sunday, Mark Girvan shared something of his role in what the SBS does and gave us a glimpse of the range of materials being made available to enable more people to engage with the Bible. Here he writes for the Newsletter.

*Since our arrival at Allander in the summer, Justine and I have been very grateful to you all for your warm welcome.*

*As some of you are aware, I work as the digital communications co-ordinator for the Scottish Bible Society. SBS exists "to provide God's Word to people in a language they can understand, a format they can use and a price they can afford, to aid genuine encounters with God." My role is to help the Scottish Bible Society to achieve these aims through digital platforms. In recent months, I have been involved in showcasing new, accessible Bible resources across our social media channels, providing downloadable materials for church communities during lockdown and creating financial appeal videos for overseas Bible projects.*

*Online platforms allow us to communicate with our traditional supporters but they*

*also offer an opportunity to share God's Word with those who do not have a connection with a church. In the last year, we have produced podcasts and audio dramas as well as Mark's Gospel in magazine format. The methods of communicating may be diverse, but the motive remains the same: to provide access to the Bible and aid genuine encounters with God.*

## Prayer for:

After a blessed week of prayer we continue to remember the many in the fellowship who need our support, including: David Jack, now in Gartnavel; George / Margaret Cowan; Jack / Christine Harvey, Joyce Kyle with the continued visiting restrictions; Donald Macleod and Jim Gourley recovering after surgery. And others, including Jing and her internet work with so many Chinese children

## Faith Mission

The local FM Prayer meeting will be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 7 30pm on Zoom.

## Finally,

On Saturday, in his guide for our week of prayer, John pointed us to Psalm 23v4 and encouraged us to give thanks to God for the assurance He gives that we can seek and know His presence at every stage of life. My mind was drawn to an adaptation of Psalm 23 for seafarers, which I found in a notebook belonging to Margaret's late father.

*The Lord is my pilot, I shall not drift; He lights me across the dark waters;*

*He steers me in the deep channels. He keeps my log. He guides me by the star of holiness, for his name sake.*

*Yes, though I sail 'mid the thunders and tempests of life, I shall dread no danger, for you are near me.*

*Your love and care - they shelter me. You prepare a harbour before me in the homeland of eternity. You anoint the waves with oil, my ship rides calmly.*

*Surely, sunlight and starlight shall favour me on the voyage I take; and I will rest in the port of my God forever. (Capt. John Rogers)*

Ian Baird