



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

31st January, 2022

Sunday Sermon 1 Peter 2: 11 - 25

Continuing the series in 1 Peter 2 on the identity of the believer, this week's sermon was entitled: Strangers in a strange land, depicting Christian testimony and identity as being counter cultural, described in older translations as that of '*resident aliens*'.

It applies, as does the previous issues of identity, from being 'born again' by the 'word of God', trusting in Jesus Christ as the *Word made flesh*, renouncing the natural sinful life and, by faith, being made a new creature, adopting a new culture: being saved. That should have significant consequences.

This salvation means a change of status. Accepting Christ as Saviour means being regarded as children of God and citizens of heaven, seeking to live out that new life – with all its distinctives - within the context of 'this world'. And, living it as foreigners, reflecting the values and practices of our adopted country as a people who have a different identity and a better ethos.

Although ideal it is far from being idyllic. This new identity brings with it an inner conflict when the two 'natures' or cultures clash in terms of the demands they make. The NT is full of exhortations, examples and encouragement to resist these natural temptations, to "*put to death*" the old nature and to *seek that which is above*. That is a constant struggle.

Such resultant good living is glorifying to the Lord and is ground for us to be able to "*give a reason for the hope within us*".

Christian Viewpoint

The first Lunch Meeting of Christian Viewpoint this year is due to be held at Allander on Wednesday 2nd February at 12 30pm for 12 45. The speaker will be Agnes Brough, a prominent Christian lawyer.

Though not a direct Allander activity, Christian Viewpoint is now hosted and largely supported by the church. Betty Mackay tells of its origin.

This Christian endeavour has been taking place in our local community, for more than 40 years, with only one change in the format.

It was started at the instigation of G B Duncan, minister of St George's Tron, Glasgow. He contacted a local woman who, with a team of helpers, developed the Christian Supper Club. The aim was to promote Christian Fellowship and the dissemination of the gospel to all the ladies – particularly young mothers – in the area. I remember attending these supper evenings in the 70s and 80s in Kessington Hall.

As the life-pressures of those attending increased a re-modelling was required. The Christian Viewpoint was developed, with a change to lunch time and a shift of venue to Milngavie Town Hall.

Since 2018, when the Town Hall was no longer available, Allander has hosted and largely supported the meeting which is held on the first Wednesday of alternate months. After the Covid hiatus it is now starting again

We meet at 12 30 for a light lunch and chat followed by a Christian speaker. Our aim is to reach out in Christian fellowship and speak the gospel to all the women in our community.

Sunday Services

John McKinnon will be our visiting speaker this Sunday. The evening service will be a joint meeting with Milngavie UF during which John McKinnon, who is one of the leaders, will talk about A Passion for Life and bring us up to date with what is happening nationally.

A Passion for Life

The next gathering of Milngavie churches by way of preparation for this event will be held at Allander from 10am to 12 noon on Saturday 12th February.

Mission of the Month

The Church gives regularly to various mission agencies with whom we have contact. The M o M for February will be Truth for Today, a ministry in which our good friend Sam Gordon is involved, providing ministry for churches in various countries, notably East Africa. Sam will be with us on Sunday, 6th March.

Rejuvenate

Gordon Thomson and the Faith Mission team will be here again on Saturday evening, 5th February, conducting another Rejuvenate event for young people. They

would very much appreciate our prayers for this crucial activity.

FM Prayer Union

The monthly Prayer Union for the Faith Mission is due next Monday, 7th February at 7 30 on Zoom.

People and Prayer

Along with earnest prayer for the fulfilment of the will of God and the extension of his kingdom, we continue to pray for people and situations in the Fellowship, including: Joyce Kyle, the Carmichael family, Ian Baird, Janice Allan waiting surgery, Christine Macleod mourning the passing of her sister, George and Margaret Cowan, Margaret Craig, Margaret Stewart, Christine Harvey and Jack; and others.

Maryhill Evangelical Church

As intimated last week, our good friends at Maryhill Evangelical celebrate 126 years of faithful gospel witness with a rally on Saturday evening, 12th February at 7pm. Our own John Macleod is the speaker and Ministry in Song, who featured at the last FM Rally, will sing.

Bible Study

Our studies in Deuteronomy continue on Thursday at 7 30pm on Zoom, this week looking at chapters 5 – 8.

Finally,

One topic of conversation I have had two or three times in the last week is the Scottish Government's Law regarding fire detection in every home in Scotland, effective from February. Each house is required to have a heat detector, smoke alarms and (unless it is all electric) a carbon monoxide detector. They all have to be interlinked so that if one detects a problem they all sound the alarm.

We as Christians are interlinked as the body of Christ here on earth. We should be telling others how they can become linked with God through Jesus Christ.

'For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people.' 1Timothy2v5-6.

Ian Baird