



## **ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

### **FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER**

28<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

#### **Sunday Sermon: Matt 2: 13 - 23**

On this first Sunday in Advent, James Fraser, Scottish Representative of Release International, based his message on the events recorded in Matthew 2 where Joseph and Mary fled to Nazareth because of Herod's infanticide persecution, and drew parallels with situations today in various parts of the world.

The first point was that **God's King (Jesus) was opposed**. The initial perpetrator was Herod, a wicked earthly king, known for his cruelty and obvious fear that his own authority was being threatened. That situation affects many persecuted Christians today in countries like Pakistan, China, Africa and the 'third world'. Totalitarian governments, other world religions and an increasingly secular society show a militant intolerance towards Christian believers.

But the story also shows how **God's King (Jesus) was preserved**. That did not mean that they were sheltered or exempt from persecution but protected as they went through it. God intervenes – as He did with Moses in Exodus – by guiding His people, leading them through difficult circumstances, providing that inner strength as illustrated in several examples cited from countries where Release International Partners are located. That strength is based on the fact that Jesus Himself faced both opposition and preservation through the Cross and the resurrection, thus establishing hope.

For our part we can support by prayer and practical help as we respond to this very real need.

#### **Ladies' Meeting**

Fraser Allan will be the speaker at this Thursday's Ladies Meeting at 2pm. All ladies are invited to enjoy this time of fellowship, bright singing and refreshments.

#### **Annual Church Meeting**

The annual Meeting of the church will be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December in the Back Hall.

This year, the format will change slightly. Starting with tea and coffee at 7pm it will include a time of review and reflection on the work of the church as well as presenting reports that are a legal requirement. A good attendance is encouraged.

#### **Faith Mission Rally**

The last of the Friday night Monthly Rallies for this year will be held in Allander on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 7 30pm. The speaker will be Alan Wells from Castlehill Baptist Church, Bearsden.

#### **Rejuvenate**

Rejuvenate for older young people will be held again on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 8pm. It is proving a blessing to young Christians and other teenagers from a range of churches in the area. Pray for Gordon and Janice Thomson as they conduct these important activities.

#### **FM Prayer**

The final Prayer Time for this year will be held in Margaret Russell's home at 53 Roman Road, G61 2SG on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7 30pm.

### **Bible Study**

Booklets summarising the chapters in the Book of Acts we have been considering on Thursday nights since September are available at the table in the Entrance Hall. They cover chapters 1 – 12.

### **Christmas Arrangements**

Special arrangements will apply to our services over the Christmas period.

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December the 10 30 gathering will be an All-Age Service, followed by Christmas Lunch in the Back Hall. The 6 30 Service will take the form of a Christmas Praise Evening with the Community Choir taking part.

Except for the Café and the Prayer meetings the other activities will not be taking place during the week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> December but will resume in the New Year.

On Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve – we will be hosting Carols by Candlelight, starting at 7pm

That will be followed on Sunday morning with a Christmas Day Service at 10 30. No refreshments will be served at the close.

There will be no Communion on Sundays 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> December.

The Morning Prayer Times will continue each Wednesday and Friday morning from 9 until 9 30am until Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

and then start again on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

There will be no Café on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Prayer**

Remember all those outreach activities at this time of year ministering to the marginalised, homeless, victims of abuse and injustice; etc, not made easier by the current cost of living crisis and inevitable cut-backs in provision.

### **Christian Viewpoint**

The next meeting of the Ladies' Christian Viewpoint will be at Allander on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December with a light lunch at 12 45pm followed by Terry McCutcheon of Hope for Glasgow as the Speaker.

### **Mission of the Month**

December's Mission is Release International whose work was highlighted yesterday by James Fraser.

### **The Space**

Donations of gifts of clothes and toiletries for The Space – a refuge for asylum seekers and women in Govan – are still welcome. There is a box in the Entrance Hall of the church designated for this cause.

### **Finally,**

By the time you read this I hope I have been successful in a task I've been carrying for a number of months, which is a surprise that friends have arranged for my wife! (I'm still keeping details quiet just in case!) I am quite certain it will be a great joy for her when it is revealed and it is a reminder to me of how some of the best things in life are the unexpected blessings God brings our way. We are conscious that life is often challenging and wearying and yet in kindness God often sends unexpected blessings to encourage us along the way. As we journey on in following Jesus, I pray that the difficulty of the pathway at times, will not prevent us from seeing the moments of grace and goodness that God surprises us with.

John Macleod