



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

27th June, 2022

Sunday Sermon: Acts 2: 42

The second characteristic feature of the group of believers gathered in Jerusalem at Pentecost, after their devotion to the word of God, (the Apostles' teaching') is **fellowship**.

Though used loosely in many situations it is good to ask what is meant by 'fellowship' in this context.

Essentially it is a shared experience, something they have in common. In their case it was repentance and trust in Jesus as the One whom God had sent to be their Saviour and through whom their sins were forgiven and now, by his Holy Spirit, they were born again. This was a new experience they shared together, whatever their original background. They were believers in the gospel.

As well as being a personal experience it was also an experience shared with others who had received the same blessing. They showed this through worshipping together, helping each other to mature through understanding the teaching, serving one another in practical ways and, above all, sharing that testimony by proclaiming the gospel in whatever situation they found themselves in.

Gift

Last week the Church benefitted from a generous gift of £10,000 from the estate of the late David Jack. Over his many years in Allander he gave generously of his time, talents and finance in the Lord's service. It is with gratitude that we received this final gift from him.

Holiday Club

The Holiday Club starts this morning for the week running from 10 to 12 30 each day. Work has already taken place to decorate the building for the theme of Brave (based on the life of Daniel) with the Hanging Gardens of Babylon as you come in and the tent in the desert upstairs for the storytelling and Bible Lessons. Simon and Hannah, with John and Martha Meagher of CEF, will run the programme with help from Allander volunteers. Extra bodies to help with snacks or keeping an eye on the children as they move around are always welcome.

Above all, prayer is valued that the venture will prove worthwhile in reaching the community with the message of the gospel.

Newsletter issues over the summer

It has been decided to reduce the production of the weekly Newsletter over the next two months to one a month.

That means a composite issue on Monday 4th July and 1st August resuming – if it is still felt to be appropriate – a weekly issue from Monday, September 5th (DV) when most of our activities will be restarting.

Mission of the Month

It has been good to be able to support Wycliffe Bible Translators financially during this month and to offer support and encouragement to Inga as she has been home with us during this time.

Next month, the Mission we support is Children for Christ and the work in Romania. Mention has been made of the

camps which, by now, are well under way. John Macleod goes out to help at these later in July

Thank You

Thanks are due to all who have worked hard over the year. The church building has been kept in wonderful condition thanks to Emma the (unseen) cleaner and to Ian, and the Thursday gardening personnel.

The varied activities have also meant hard work and a great deal of effort. These activities include formal things like Toddlers, Hashtag, Café, Ladies Meeting, Sunday School and the regular Sunday services. As well as these activities there is the other incidental work that goes on to make them possible, like the catering, the flowers, stewarding, audio visual systems and so much else, especially the excellent administration. We appreciate all that goes into the ministry aspects, the pastoral care, cards, calls and visitations; and not forgetting the faithful attendance.

Preachers for July

John will continue with the study of Acts 2: 42 over the next three Sundays encouraging us to reflect on and consider what the church should be. Attention has already been drawn to the fact that it was a family, devoted to the word of God and

enjoying fellowship. An interesting side-issue from that is the observation that the NT says little about what we often perceive as church, things like buildings, services, even sermons as we know them. So, perhaps we need to be thinking again as to what it means to 'be church' in our day and age and how best to communicate the Apostles' doctrine and practise fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers. What should church look like in our day? As nostalgic perceptions of church are fast disappearing among modern generations it becomes an ever more pertinent issue.

On Sunday 24th July Howel Jones will take the morning service and Gordon Thomson the evening.

Pray for:

Margaret Stewart as she settles into her new home in Westerton, Liz Walker undergoing tests, Jim Gourley with routine check-ups, Terry Gallagher – surgery; and Esther McColl's newly-born grandson, Sam, in intensive care at QEUH, George Cowan returning from hospital..

And Gordon Craig enlisted at short notice to cook at the Arran SU Camp.

Finally,

Writing a closing comment for the newsletter has been a good challenge. The old TV news programme that ended with an 'and finally' slot was usually trying to share something cheerful and upbeat at the end of a news broadcast that was often saddening and discouraging. How little the world has changed! The difference for us is that the newsletter has often been uplifting and then you get to the Pastor's closing thoughts!! As we Elders have shared over these months, I know that the purpose has not been to work out the mood of a crowd but to work out the mind and heart of our God and share together what He would want us to know. Sometimes that will be hard and challenging, other times it will be light and encouraging, but the great news is that God is with us through it all. We also know that there will come a time when the hard and troubling experiences will give way to the eternal experience of God's joyful presence. *"...weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning"* (Psalm 30:5). What a great promise and soothing truth, finally!

John Macleod