



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

Monday, 26th June, 2023

Sunday Sermon: Luke 17: 12 - 19

With John away at Maryhill, yesterday's service was taken by Jim Gourley who involved his fellow elders and reminded us that they are grateful for the congregation's prayers for them as they carry out the responsibilities of overseeing the work of the church.

Under the title, **Grace and Gratitude**, based on the story of the healing of ten lepers only one of whom returned to give thanks, we were reminded that grace is God's kindness to the undeserving and gratitude is appreciation for something received or done for us.

These lepers suffered from a devastating and incurable disease. In a similar way we suffer from an equally terminable condition – inherent sinfulness; so what happened to them is of relevance to us and our condition.

Possibly, having heard that Jesus had previously healed a leper (Luke 4) they now approached Him and asked that he heal them. His reply to them was not action but a command to go to the priest and be certified clean. It was only as they went that they were actually healed. Each one had gone and each had been healed. Yet, only one – a Samaritan no less – returned to show gratitude.

For that to mean something to us we need to acknowledge our condition and seek God's grace in forgiveness. Responding to the gospel of God's love, demonstrated by Jesus' death and resurrection, brings an assurance of salvation. But real gratitude also calls for deliberate commitment

This week

This week sees a number of our activities being suspended because folk are away on holiday now that Covid restrictions have been lifted. Wednesday will be the last morning Zoom prayer time. The Café breaks for the summer on that day. And Hashtag has finished in preparation for the Holiday Club in July. Thursday will also be the last of the Bible Studies for the time being when Manuel will provide his view of the whole study of the Book of Acts. He has asked that we share any significant reflection from the whole of the book that we have studied over the winter.

The Tuesday Prayer meeting continues as does the need for us to engage in prayer constantly for the witness of the church and blessing on the work of God in its many manifestations through individual witness, church activities, conventions, missions and camps.

Thanks to all those who have helped in various ways. That contribution is really appreciated.

Men's Meal

A reminder of the Men's Meal on Wednesday 28th June at 6 30pm in Spice Chilli Indian restaurant in Baljaffray Shopping Centre, Bearsden, G61 4RN. Cost £10 95pp. European dishes are also available if preferred.

People and Prayer: Church Prayer Diary

The Church Prayer Diary which was issued last month is an excellent resource for promoting our prayer for each other.

It incorporates suggestions for a prayer focus for each day of the week. It lists the names of those of us who have some association with the church at Allander based on the database held by the church. Included in the list and grouped alphabetically for each day of the week, we each have a range of needs including such as: coping with ongoing and serious health issues; facing challenging situations and circumstances; being involved in various activities within the church programme; seeking to know more about the Christian gospel and its implications; still coming to terms with establishing a personal relationship with God through trust in Jesus' redeeming work; yet to move beyond just being nominal in our commitment; being appreciative and responsive to the warmth and concern shown; valuing the Biblical and personal ministry; grappling with issues of active involvement, baptism and church membership; And much else.

It is a privilege to be able to pray for each other.

Mission of the Month

The Mission of the Month for July is Child Evangelism Fellowship – a worldwide organisation promoting evangelistic work among children across the globe. We are indebted to them through having the excellent services of Simon and Hannah

Snodgrass who have maintained – and enhanced – our #One2Seven /Youth Challenge work and who have been responsible for the Holiday Club last year and this.

Newsletter arrangements for July August

The Newsletter will be issued up to and including Monday 3rd July as normal. Over the summer months two interim editions will be distributed on Monday 17th July and Monday 14th August, with regular editions starting up again, DV, in September. If there is anything you want to see included, please let us know in good time. Thank you.

Holiday Club

Preparation for the Holiday Club due to take place each morning from Monday 10th to Friday 14th July from 10 am to 12 noon is well under way.

Saturday 8th July at 10 am is being set aside for work in preparing the premises for the event. Any offers of help will be welcome.

Summer Convention Dates

Faith Mission Convention in Edinburgh from 2nd to 7th July with Charles Price and Paul Mallard. Keswick on the theme of Human in July: 15 – 21; 22 – 26; and 29 to August 4th.

Finally,

The recent tragic loss of the Titan Submersible is another sad reminder of the great risks many take in pursuing some sense of great achievement or fulfilment. It is estimated that there are some 200 unrecovered dead bodies on Mt. Everest of those who have failed in their attempts to reach the top. Whether plumbing the depths or scaling the heights human beings have been driven to explore these regions in their quest for meaning and accomplishment. The Gospel reminds us that true fulfilment is only found in knowing the one who came from the heights of glory before descending through the depths of judgment for us and in the midst of the sadness of the loss of life our comfort comes in knowing that wherever people die, and however far they may be from civilisation, the God who made them sees them and if they call upon his name, they will find fulfilment in the wonder of eternal salvation.

John Macleod