



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2023

*This is the first of two interim Newsletters to be issued over the summer months to keep us in touch and informed of what is going on and what we need to pray for in the Fellowship. Some of the regular features, like the Sunday Sermon summary and Elders' Finally piece will not be included as separate items. With less frequent meeting together taking place during these months there is not the same opportunity to pick up relevant news or topics, so please let us know if anything should be included in the next issue. Thank you.*

*Suspending activities over these months is a matter of arrangement to accommodate practical needs. The concept of a Sabbath rest is Scriptural and clearly God, as He did Himself, advocates periodic rest: "Come ye apart and rest a while". But that does not mean being off-duty. To "walk worthy of the vocation with which we have been called" we need to maintain our close relationship with God, take the opportunity to settle outstanding spiritual issues and glorify God by "bearing much fruit". When 'normal services' are resumed', hopefully that will be characterised by clear evidence of growth and commitment generated during this respite period.*

#### Prayer

The last two Tuesday evening meetings held since our last Newsletter have been characterised by encouraging prayer. It has been good to pray for each other (helped by the Church Prayer Guide) and for the ongoing witness of the church as Sunday services are still held each week.

#### Bible Study

Our studies of the Book of Acts were concluded last month with Manuel providing an overview of the book under three main headings:

- The **anointing** signifies that it was ordinary people filled with the life and power of God that – as Jim Flett reminded us in the last Finally – God used to be witnesses.
- Their witness is characterised by **living**. As they found themselves in ordinary circumstances they displayed a different life and

attitude, so much so that they earned the nicknames of "Christians" and "The Way".

- Running through the whole book is the sense of **Mission** – a commitment to see God's will being done on earth.

An A5 booklet summarising the teaching of Chapters 19 to 28 is now available as is the document on the church website.

#### Services

Regular Sunday services are still held and people are involved in facilitating them, from the preachers, administrators, pastoral visitors, those who look after the premises, and those who make the tea!

#### Mission of the Month

July's Mission of the Month is the Child Evangelism Fellowship whose services through Simon and Hannah we benefit from greatly.

August's Mission of the Month will be the Scottish Bible Society.

### **Outreach**

The summer offers wonderful opportunities for various forms of outreach. Scripture Union Scotland runs a series of camps and adventure activities across Scotland as do other agencies.

Our, and Maryhill's, Holiday Clubs are now past but pray for the ongoing effects of full exposure to the gospel.

Outreach to students, especially international ones takes place during the summer and regular agencies like Street Connect, Hope for Glasgow, City Mission, and Trussell Trust all continue to deal with challenges among the marginalised that do not take a break over any summer.

### **Conventions and Conferences**

Keswick started the first of three separate weeks on Saturday, each dealing with the theme of humanity – a pressing area of challenge in our day. Services from there are being streamed on the internet.

Locally, there is an invitation to join a Livestream at the UF Church from 7 30 to 9pm each evening from 17 -21 July.

### **War of the Worldviews**

Addressing the same set of issues is the Conference arranged by the West of Scotland Gospel Partnership at the Tron Church on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October from 9 30am to 4 30pm. Entitled 'War of the Worldviews' it will consider how Christians and gospel churches can navigate the increasingly hostile culture in which we are called to mission. Places can

be booked through this web link <https://www.tron.church/conference>.

Entry for the day is £10, which includes materials and refreshments, but not lunch.

### **People and Prayer**

Over these summer weeks we continue to pray for each other, especially those:

- currently facing health issues and undergoing medical treatment;
- in Care Homes, limited in their activities and feeling isolated;
- facing daily challenges because of adverse circumstances or difficult situations;
- grappling with personal challenges of a spiritual nature and how best to respond to what God is saying;
- constantly concerned about family and friends' spiritual condition;
- seeking to 're-charge their batteries' ready for the work ahead;
- And more.

### **Holiday Club**

Although numbers at the Holiday Club were lower this year, the quality of the activities and teaching has been very good and the excellent help received from all concerned very much appreciated. Parents' evening was well attended with a very clear presentation of the gospel.

### **Library**

Colin Wilson has prepared a helpful list of book reviews for possible reads during this summer. Copy attached.

The words of Jesus in John 15 are worth remembering as we seek to stay in-tune spiritually during these summer weeks:

*I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, then you will bear much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing.*

*Summer is a good opportunity to catch up on some profitable reading.  
Here are some suggestions made by Colin Wilson. The books are available for borrowing from the Church Library.  
References are to colour coding: Blue / Yellow / Green / Red / Orange*

**The Cross of Jesus** by Warren Wiersbe (B/Y)

In this book Warren Wiersbe turns his attention to the central message of the Christian faith. Looking from Jesus' perspective, he contemplates how Christ approached the cross, what happened when He died and what His words mean to us today. Pastor Wiersbe takes us right back to the scene and shows us how Jesus himself understood the meaning of the cross, why he endured it and what he actually said as he hung there.

**Heaven: How I got there** by Colin Smith (O/G)

Colin S Smith brings the thief on the cross to life in this novella, *Heaven: How I Got Here*. He writes imaginatively from the thief's perspective while dealing respectfully with the biblical account. For instance, he does not invent words to put in Jesus' mind or mouth. Instead, as we follow the thief through his last day on earth - from eating breakfast to carrying his cross to finally breathing his last. Smith shares poignant reflections on law, justice, faith and forgiveness. Through it all he continually brings our attention back to Christ's work on the cross and his offer of salvation to all who believe.

**Why I am a Christian** by John Stott (B/R)

Why Jesus? John Stott spent a lifetime wrestling with questions about Jesus, both personally and in dialogue with sceptics and seekers around the globe. In *Why I Am a Christian* he provides a compelling and persuasive case for considering the Christian faith. If you take an honest look at Jesus, you will discover that following him gives you the purpose, identity and freedom you've been searching for; and far more than you ever imagined

**Judges: Such a Great Salvation** by Dale Ralph Davis (O/B)

The church has a problem with the book of Judges. It is earthy, puzzling, primitive and violent - so much so that the church can barely stomach it. It falls under the category of 'embarrassing scripture'. Such an attitude is, of course, wrong. Here, Dale Ralph Davis makes Judges digestible by analysing the major literary and theological themes discovered in each section, providing theocentric exposition. Yet this is no theological discourse but a warm devotional commentary which makes Judges come alive and relevant for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Give me by this Mountain** by Helen Roseveare (B/G)

Helen tells her story in down-to-earth terms, from playing cricket for the ladies university side to her return to Britain after five months as a hostage in rebel terrorist hands in Zaire. Her candid account is an antidote to any delusion that missionaries are 'saints' who float about an inch above the ground and see a 'blinding light' from heaven when they received 'the call'. She almost failed in missionary school through her personal failings. Her own stubbornness, pride, know-it-all attitude, and inability to work with others made her a liability. Physical dangers and her personal ambition in the Congo often almost sank her but her faith and hard work brought her through. Her story is one of conquering bright mountains after experiencing the dark valleys: and learning to give glory to God.

Colin Wilson July 2023