



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

Monday, 15th January, 2024

Sunday Sermon: Mark 1: 1 - 15

Beginning a new series based on Mark's Gospel, John pointed out that, although it does not record the birth and early life of Christ, it does emphasise what His coming signifies.

It heralds a **glorious new beginning**, good news to a people forlorn of hope, sourced in the person of Jesus, the Messiah promised in the Old Testament, who has now appeared. Accepting Him will involve change through repentance and cleansing from the sins of the past, entered into now by token baptism in the wilderness, but fully effected by the Holy Spirit when they truly believe in Jesus.

So, John the Baptist, in presenting Jesus as the One come from God, declares **that the time has come**: the promised Saviour is here.

The time has come for God to move significantly in his plan of redemption. By being baptised along with the others, Jesus identifies with humanity and become an accessible Saviour.

It is also **time for Satan to be confronted** and his hold on fallen sinners to be broken.

It is also **time for human beings** to recognise this good news, turn from their sins and submit themselves to Jesus and be subjects of his kingdom. It is the leaving of one (failing) way of living and, being born again, to give ourselves to the new life God has for us and which Jesus came to provide. Indeed, **the time has come for us to follow Jesus**: for now is the time of salvation.

This Week

Most of our activities have now started at their regular times each week: Sunday Services, Sunday School and Crèche at 10 30 and 6 30; Toddlers on Tuesday 9 30 to 11 am; Prayer Meeting on Tuesday at 8pm; Café on Wednesday at 10 30 to 12 30 and #One 2Seven / Youth Challenge at 6 30pm on the same day. The SGA prayer time is on Friday at 7 30 pm. Not forgetting the Wednesday and Friday morning Prayer Times from 9 00 to 9 30 am for those who can manage those times.

SGA Prayer

The monthly Slavic Gospel Association Prayer Meeting will meet on Friday 19th January at Ava and Manuel's home. Directions from Manuel

Mission of the Month

Our Mission of the Month for January is Child Evangelism Fellowship, providing resources, training and engagement in reaching out to children and young people alongside local churches. Through them we have the services of Simon and Hannah, which we appreciate very much.

Last month the amount contributed to SAT -7 was £450.

People and Prayer

With 2024 now well under way we remember those of our number facing various challenges, among them:

- People in Care Homes: Mary Atwell, George Cowan, Anna Gardiner, Joyce Kyle, Jack Harvey and Margaret Stewart.

- Housebound: Ellenor Brown, Margaret Craig, and Jean Donnelly.
- Those with ongoing problems: Ian Baird, Terry & Joan Gallagher, Mary Linton, Jean Malkin, Margaret Russell and David & Morag Wilson.
- Others undergoing treatment and medical attention: Mary Clarke, Jim & Laraine Gourley, Howel & Ann Jones, James & Allyson Flett and Isla Morrison.
- The faithful ladies, like Flora and the others, of the Pastoral Team, led by Sandy Allan, who were very busy visiting over Christmas and the New Year and continue to minister quietly and effectively to so many of our folk.

Elisabeth Gemmell

Sadly, Elisabeth Gemmell has suffered a major stroke and passed away on Tuesday 10th January in hospital. Funeral details will follow

Bible Study

In view of Howel's current indisposition it has been decided to postpone the

resumption of the Proverbs Bible Studies which were due to start this Thursday.

Newsletter

Similarly, this will be the last of the current series of the Newsletter which has been issued regularly since the Covid lockdown in 2020.

And,

Being a member of the church is a privilege. It begins with becoming a Christian. That means repenting of our sin and being born again by receiving the Jesus who died for us and rose again into our lives. As a young Christian and member of the family the next phase is to grow and develop nurturing that new life by what we feed on and exercising it appropriately, progressing towards maturity like a young child showing signs of life. And with maturity comes the responsibility and privilege of contributing and participating in those activities that reflect God's grace and mercy, being evidence of the outworking of His purposes through His church; and brings Him pleasure and satisfaction in seeing His will being done on earth.

Finally

As humans we worry. We distrust God's providential care for us. It can be discomforting and even life threatening (suicidal thoughts). We worry about so many things, old age, finance, health etc. Jesus knows this and spoke about it. He told us not to worry and explained why. He uses the example of birds, how they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns and yet our Father provides for them. The children's hymn says it so well.

As the Robin said to the Sparrow, I'd really like to know
Why these anxious human beings rush around and worry so,
Said the Sparrow to the Robin, I guess that it must be, that
They think they have no Heavenly Father who cares for them as you and me".

Jesus told us that we are far more valuable than birds and to stop worrying and to cast our care upon HIM.



Sandy Allan 13