



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWS-SHEET

6<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2020

Welcome again to our church fellowship newsletter. We trust you found last week's helpful in encouraging each other and keeping us all in the picture.

#### **Discovery from Distress**

In a powerful and passionate message John, completing the story of Lazarus in yesterday's Palm Sunday sermon, developed the idea, shared last week that delay on the part of Jesus was not rejection but deliberate. There were lessons to be learned of more value than temporary comfort. It was more than a genuine offer of help to a grieving family.

Seeing their confusion and distress that this had happened because He wasn't there, Jesus shares their grief but assures them that He is the Resurrection and that in believing in Him there is power over death. That echoes Paul's assurance to the Colossians: Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Nor was it a dispassionate truth for He grieved over the sin of man that was the cause of such distress as He set His face towards Jerusalem to pay the ultimate price and gain the Victory. That is the confidence that can take us through the present crisis.

(The whole sermon can be heard on the church website: [www.allanderchurch.org.uk](http://www.allanderchurch.org.uk))

#### **Holy Week**

This is Holy Week and, apart from the lockdown, it would have been a special week for Christians in Milngavie as they join together in fellowship each evening and in a March of Witness on Good Friday. While that is denied us we can still make use of the time and set aside each evening to contemplate on the events of that week. It is also an opportunity again to remember "the whole household of faith" here in Milngavie as they face their varied situations. Fergus Buchanan

still appreciates our united prayers. The meetings themselves would have been held at St Luke's so it would be good to remember them and Ramsay Shields as he carries so much extra responsibility at this time.

#### **Encouragements**

Two examples have come to light during this week of encouraging opportunities. In the one instance a family decided to celebrate communion simply in their own home and then listened to the recording of John's sermon. Their Sunday morning was complete. In another incident someone distributed Scripture Gift Mission (now called Lifewords) Daily Strength booklets to immediate neighbours. The response to that was most encouraging with several expressions of genuine appreciation.

#### **Low-level HighTech**

Apart from the high tech development associated with Zoom and these other sophisticated devices, we've heard this week of three examples of a simple arrangement. Someone has placed their open phone next to their computer broadcast of the Sunday sermon which is then being listened to by someone else on their phone even though they have no internet access. Ingenious! It not only shows initiative but is evidence of real concern for each other. Perhaps the church should be offering grants towards heightened phone bills?!!

#### **Finance**

As the Church is still liable for all outgoings throughout this difficult period we would encourage members to continue their financial giving of tithes and offerings to the

Lord. For those who regularly give by monthly Standing Order no action is needed. However for those who give by envelope or through the offering bags the following suggestions may be helpful:

**Monthly Standing Order** - This is the preferred method which requires a simple form from your own bank to be completed. It only needs to be arranged once. For those who are self-isolating, a friend or neighbour may be willing to obtain and return the form from your bank.

**BACS** - For those who have internet access to their personal bank account, a BACS transfer could be made to the Church at any time. To assist the Treasurer to identify transfers for Gift Aid and Non Gift Aid purposes, transfers should be identified by the initial of the forename followed by the surname (eg D Jack).

**Cash and cheques**- For those who give weekly or monthly by cash or cheque it is recommended that this is now given only by a cheque which should be mailed to the Treasurer.

Bank details are: Allander Evangelical Church 2019; Bank of Scotland Sort Code 80 22 60; Account number 19484160.

Treasurer - David Jack, 62 Mosshead Road, Bearsden, GLASGOW G61 3HA Tel 0141 570 1236.

### **Mission of the Month**

This month we support Platform 67 as our adopted mission. Led by Martin Dudgeon it is

### **Finally – from Jim Gourley and the Elders**

Yesterday was Palm Sunday one of the great days in the Christian Calendar when Jesus made his Triumphant entry into the city of Jerusalem. In that episode one moment stands out: (see Luke 19 v 41/42) Jesus wept over the city. These words show us that there were tears in the heart of God. In the days we are living through, might we and people in the world, share that concern for a lost world and people in distress yet share the conviction that knowing Jesus as Saviour and Lord brings true peace. So, we continue to pray for each other, our country and our world at this time.

an agency that focuses on promoting mission through Bible teaching, front-line projects, informing prayer and resourcing churches. Normally, we have opportunity to support financially through the offering box in the Crush Hall. With that ruled out perhaps folk would like to follow David's guidance above.

### **Children for Christ**

Thanks to all who helped to sort and pack the aid for Romania just before the Coronavirus restrictions took effect. Despite the closing of the Hungarian border the alternative route through the Czech Republic and Slovenia enabled the lorry to arrive at Varfurile on Friday 20 March. As Wilma was still recovering from Gall bladder problems Casi Anaboris took a team of young people from Arad to prepare the store and unload the lorry. Please pray for Neli and the children in Casa Harry who are in lock down and for those leaders who were training to be nurses and doctors and who have been called to help in the front line.

### **Prayer**

Please pray for David & Jennifer McColl. They made the difficult decision to leave Bolivia as Jennifer is 6 months pregnant and arrived in Glasgow yesterday for self-isolation. David is Country Director for Samaritans Purse. Pray that they will have good health and peace following what was a difficult decision for both of them.

Also remember Inga McKendry in Mexico.