



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

1st June, 2020

Hello

Welcome to the 10th edition of Allander Church Newsletter. That has been ten weeks of lockdown without being able to meet together, yet *"though sundered far, by faith we meet around one common Mercy Seat"*.

What God wants you to do?

In concluding the series on Philippians 2: 1 – 18, John asked us to imagine the scene where the Philippians, encouraged by all that was being said, were excitedly anticipating details of the practical outworking.

To their surprise, the reply was abrupt, simple and stark: Stop practising those ordinary aspects of behaviour, like grumbling and arguing, that are instinctively natural in the world but not appropriate for the child of God who has adopted the "mind of Christ" as the governing principle in everyday living as a Christian. The reason for doing that is that they – and us – may:

- Grow in their identity as children of God in ordinary aspects of behaviour.
- Glow as Christians in their testimony to the world.
- Gear themselves in this life for living in eternity.

By doing that they would not only fulfil Paul's ministry to them but also, as faithful stewards, be a pleasing 'sweet savour' to God who would *"see of the travail of His soul, and be satisfied"*

Faith Mission Zoom Prayer Meeting

Following the successful Zoom prayer meetings held by the church a trial FM Prayer meeting will be held on Monday 1st June at 7-30 pm. Access details are: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74446276451?pwd=WEQ4cmR3MVdFVlJzWTEyMXFtQ0wvZz09>. Meeting ID: 744 4627 6451
Password: 2abjVZ. Or by telephone: 0131 460 1196.

Gordon and Janice Thomson are finding the restrictions quite binding on them but are excited at new openings presenting themselves, not least opportunities to communicate with individuals and to minister in churches using Zoom. We'll hear more at this meeting.

KeswickAyrshire

The special KeswickAyrshire broadcast on YouTube on Sunday 24th May was a fascinating service with contributions from local Christians of how they have fared during the Coronavirus pandemic as well as a challenging message from Peter Maiden, wonderfully restored after serious cancer treatment. For those who missed it, it is still accessible at www.keswickayrshire.com

More Prayer

The new venture of holding a brief prayer time from 10.00 to 10.30 am on Wednesdays and Fridays on Zoom has been warmly welcomed and well used. Same access arrangements as for the Tuesday evening meeting: ID: 819 2022 9424; Password: 047533

Bible Study

The Zoom Bible Study enters its fifth meeting this Thursday with a final revision of the OT and its content. The 'homework' for this week is to select any 'unfamiliar' section (e.g. from Chronicles or the Minor Prophets) and comment on the passage.

Do all things to the Glory of God

Although footfall around the church has been minimal because of the lockdown, the buildings and the grounds have been well maintained. The voluntary efforts of all those involved are much appreciated. Thank you.

PS. Churches may be allowed to open for private prayer in Phase 2. Phase 1 is now.

Tuesday Prayer Meeting

Tomorrow evening we will have Ricky McAddock from Street Connect joining us for our Prayer Meeting to update us on how they are managing the current restrictions. This will also give us the opportunity to pray with him for the work.

Pray for Us

In addition to those on our regular prayer list we are asked to pray for: Christine Harvey (and Jack) suffering from a trapped nerve; Isabel Nicol in bereavement following the loss of her sister; Morag Wilson still having to endure acute dental pain; and Jim Gourley, who writes: *Last Monday morning I had a sudden and unplanned admission to The Queen Elizabeth Hospital due to internal bleeding. On Wednesday evening I was discharged and have been well since then. For people who were aware, thank you for your concern and prayers.*

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Finally

Many of us have asked the question why during this coronavirus.

The disciples asked Jesus to calm the storm and He asked them: why do you have so little faith? After calming the storm Jesus again asked them: Do you still have no faith?

Faith is more important than fear.

We must choose faith over fear. While it is ok to ask why, faith over fear is the real answer. In John 14: 27 Jesus said, "My peace I leave with you. Let not your heart be troubled nor let it be afraid".

Jim Flett