



### Message from the Leadership

Our Reformed forebears, drawing on a perspective traceable all the way back to the fourth century writer Eusebius of Caesarea, found it helpful to think about Christ as a Prophet, Priest and King. These writers were building their theology on the teaching of the Bible.

Prophets brought God's message to people and they were necessary because sin has left our minds darkened so that we are ignorant of God. God tells us that we should "listen to Jesus" His Son because he comes from God and is the final Prophet. We can do that as we read our Bibles.

Priests acted as mediators by offering sacrifices to God to make atonement for sin because we are rebels against God. Jesus is our Great High Priest who offered himself as a sacrifice to God and God is "well pleased" with what Jesus has done. As we confess our sins we receive forgiveness and cleansing.

Kings were called to rule God's people. Left to ourselves we are wayward and undisciplined. We need direction and rule in our lives. Jesus is "the King of Kings and Lord of Lords". We must submit to his authority and one day every knee will bow before him.

We can give thanks that in our ignorance, rebellion and indiscipline, God has provided a Redeemer, Jesus, who is our Prophet, Priest and King.

Please remember the following people in your prayers –

**Housebound/Illness**

*Mrs Margaret Grant*

*Mrs Mary MacDonald*

*Mrs Effie Maclver*

*Mrs Christine MacRae*

*Mr Kenny Mackenzie*

*Mr Jean Stevenson*

*Mr David Morgan*

**Residential Homes**

*Mrs Mary McCulloch – Aden House*

*Mrs Anna MacLeod – Ballifeary*

*Miss Nan MacDonald – Ballifeary*

*Mr Ronnie Lamont, Cameron House*

*Mrs Johan Macleman – Kingsmills Home*

*Mrs Margaret MacAulay - Highview*

*Mr Alasdair & Mrs Barbara Morrison, Isobel*

*Fraser Home*

*Mrs Ishbel Graham - Kingsmills Home*

<b>CONGREGATIONAL NEWS AND ACTIVITIES</b>
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**Christianity Explored**

Christianity Explored is a study of Mark's Gospel which looks at three questions over seven weeks: who Jesus is, why he come and what it means to follow him. Those who attend will not be asked to pray, sing or read. There will be the opportunity to ask any questions. The evenings are very informal and begin with a meal. We will watch a DVD and have a time of discussion.

The course will begin on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October** and run through to 10<sup>th</sup> December. We will begin at 6.30pm and finish at 8.30pm. It will be held in the hall and entrance will be from Church Street. Invitations are available to give to family or friends.

**Home Groups**

Our Home Groups meet once a month as we look at the life of Abraham. The remaining dates for this session are:

31 <sup>st</sup> October	20 <sup>th</sup> February
14 <sup>th</sup> November	20 <sup>th</sup> March
12 <sup>th</sup> December	24 <sup>th</sup> April
16 <sup>th</sup> January	15 <sup>th</sup> May

## **Parking**

**Sundays** On-street parking is free and Monday to Saturday loading bays can be used, including the one on Fraser Street. There are a few spaces on Glebe Street and outside the Blythswood shop. The multi storey is £1.50 for two hours - less than the price of a cup of coffee. Car sharing might be an option for you.

**Wednesdays** In addition to the above, you can park on the single yellow line on Friars Street after 6.00pm and in the car park outside Iceland and Home Bargains after 7.00pm.

## **Sunday School**

Sunday School has completed the first term and we have learning about what God says to us in the first 4 chapters of Genesis and looking at 3 of Jesus' parables. We have decided that the children will leave the church after the Scripture reading as we want them to hear God's word being read.

We want to acknowledge a very generous gift from the late David Lee's family. David was an elder in the congregation and the Sunday School Superintendent for many years. It is most encouraging for us to be remembered in this way.

## **Preaching Supply.**

If you would like to listen to sermons by Angus Lamont you can access them on the following websites: London City Presbyterian Church: [http://www.presbyterian.london/Sermon archive. php](http://www.presbyterian.london/Sermon%20archive.php) and The Union Church of Lima website:[http://www.union church lima. com/audio-sermons/](http://www.unionchurchlima.com/audio-sermons/)

## **Blythswood shoe boxes.**

Thanks to so many in the congregation for their help with this annual appeal. This year we took a different approach and had the hall open from 10.30am until 9pm, with people coming and going when it best suited them to sort the items then pack the boxes. This proved to be very successful with around 25 people over the day and 61 boxes as fruit for our labours. An unexpected bonus was the opportunity to chat and just

enjoy being together over coffee and meal breaks. Mike popped in at the end of the evening and rounded off the day with a blessed time of worship. Thanks again to all who helped both on the day and by contributing both material and monetary gifts.

### **Communion**

Our next Communion will be on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November (Remembrance Sunday) and our visiting preacher will be Donald Martin recently retired from Gardenstown. There will be a preparatory service on Saturday and a congregational fellowship on Sunday.

If you wish to join the congregation by profession of faith or transfer please speak to any of the elders.

### **Vacancy**

The committee has met once to consider men who might be invited to preach. If you have any suggestions or observations on those who come, do speak with a member of the committee.

It has also been suggested that Home Groups might consider the qualities that we should be looking for in a minister. The leader can feed this back to the committee.

- ❖ During the vacancy it is important that we :
- ❖ Attend public worship on Sundays and Wednesdays, remembering that we are gathering to worship God.
- ❖ Encourage one another in our Christian walk.
- ❖ Maintain our work and witness by pulling together; and
- ❖ Look out for one another. Speak to an elder or deacon if you are concerned about someone.

## OTHER NEWS

### Faith Mission Update : Donnie MacLeod

Thank you for your prayerful support and sorry this is late in reaching you.

We had a great summer of camps and missions and praise the Lord for the lives that He touched.

I would really value your prayers for the Isle of Tiree. Catherine and I travelled there on Thursday, 18 October.

#### **Programme is:**

Thursday, 18 to Monday, 22 October - meetings each night at 8.00pm

Sunday, 21 October - morning service in the Church of Scotland 11.30am

Visiting most days.

### Blythswood Inverness Support Group

**Harvest Supper** – Thank you to all who supported this event on Friday, 15 September in the Kingsview Christian Centre. Around 85 people from churches throughout the city enjoyed fellowship over the buffet meal and Rona Matheson, Blythswood Fundraising Co-ordinator, gave a presentation on the projects the Support Group will be supporting this year:

❖ **the Talita Kum Project** in Jimbolia, Romania, providing a 6-hour programme, 5 days a week for 40 children from some of the poorest households in the town. The children receive clothing, a weekly shower, nourishing meals, help with homework and preparation for exams to encourage them to finish their education. Each session finishes with a Bible story for the children.

❖ **The Highland Foodbank** – we will provide a donation for this. The sum of £1,440 was raised at the Supper Evening and this will go towards the above project.

**Annual Quiz Night – Friday, 16 November at 7.30** in the Kingsview Christian Centre. There will be around 12 teams of four from churches in and around Inverness. George Barnie, is to be the quizmaster and we will have a team at the quiz, so please come along and support both our team and Blythswood.

As part of the audience, you can, if you wish, participate by completing the quiz sheets which will be available. Donations will be invited on the night, and again this will go towards Talita Kum and the Highland Foodbank.

### **Acclaim Christmas Concert**

The Acclaim Christmas Concert will be on Saturday 15th December at 7.30pm in the Free North.

### **Staff Worker with UCCF : Emma MacAulay**

In the June newsletter, Emma wrote about her two years working as Ministry Associate at Chalmers Church, Edinburgh, and said that after the summer she was to take up a new role as a Staff Worker with UCCF, equipping and supporting Christian Unions at Heriot-Watt University and their Galashiels campus. Below is an interview she gave in relation to her new role:

#### **Why have you decided to become a staff worker with UCCF?**

I loved being a part of the CU at university – it helped me to grasp the part every Christian has to play in telling people about Jesus and better equipped me to do so. University is a unique experience with a unique gospel opportunity. At no other stage in life will there be such a breadth of contact with people, such a wealth of time and perhaps such a depth of consideration of life's big questions. Students are best placed to reach into this environment with the wonderful news of Jesus which is what makes a team of them working together to do this most effectively so exciting! I've decided to become a staff worker in order to support these students in their mission with the great hope that we will see more people come to trust in Jesus as they witness for him at university.

**Tell us a bit about the CUs that you'll be working with?**

I'll be working with the CUs of Heriot-Watt University on their main campus and in their Borders campus, Galashiels. Heriot-Watt CU has around 60 people connected to it. They meet each week as a team to be taught from the Bible and pray together which equips them for their personal evangelism and the regular evangelistic activities they run. I'm really encouraged by their zeal and gospel-mindedness. Galashiels CU is made up of around 12 people. They meet week-to-week for Bible study and host regular events to invite their friends to. Their willingness to bring friends who aren't Christians along to CU events is a real strength of theirs.

**What are you excited about or looking forward to as you take on the role?**

There are lots of things I'm looking forward to about being a Staff Worker, it's an environment I love and a work I'm really passionate about. I'm particularly excited about the opportunities there are for people who have no idea about who Jesus is to hear about him, whether in big carol services, events weeks, or as they read the Bible with a Christian friend. Having really benefitted from the input of my Staff Worker when I was a student (our very own Sam Orr), I'm excited about encouraging students from the Bible as they grow in living and speaking for Jesus during their time at university.

**SUFFERING**

“Suffering is promised!! It is a gift from The Father to His beloved children. He wants us to grow in fruitfulness as we are transformed into the likeness of His beloved Son.”

“Living for Christ in a dark world, we will experience suffering as our lives expose the light. Christ’s response was to persevere and do good, encouraging us to follow in His steps toward the reward of God’s promises. God will deliver His future in His time, not in ours.”