

Summer 2019

The Challenge



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The Challenge

Summer 2019

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A VIEW FROM THE MANSE

HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR MINISTER

Dear Friends,

I was recently reunited with some precious colleagues whom I hadn't seen for many years. They attended a church where I had been invited to be the guest preacher. On leaving the church that night, one of the church elders shared how he would continue to remember me in their prayers. What a wonderful encouragement to think that a group of Christians would make time to remember me in prayer. The elder proceeded to ask me the question, "So how can we pray for YOU?" I confess, I was taken by surprise, but then began to share my longings and dreams for our church here at the High Kirk, for the mission into our community, that God would be glorified through our ministry, and that I would be a faithful pastor and preacher. But the question was still left unanswered, "but how can we pray for YOU?"

I have been so aware over these 17 years of the prayers of God's people upholding me and my family. Many of you have often asked how you can pray more specifically for me. The Apostle Paul gives a wonderful description of pastoral ministry from 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12; and on these verses, author & preacher Kevin DeYoung highlights 12 prayer points which can be made for our Ministers.

Therefore, as you continue to remember me in your prayers, please pray that...

1. **I will not shrink back from suffering for the gospel** (v. 2). We will carry a cross, just as we call others to do the same.
2. **I will preach boldly** (v. 2). We will be clear in the face of fear.
3. **I will not deceive** (v. 3). No ulterior motives, no tricks, no gimmicks. Just plain old truth.
4. **I will work to please God, not men** (v. 4). The most important audience is up there, not out there.



5. **I will not flatter** (v. 5). Encourage, yes. Point out evidences of grace, I hope so. But no backslapping to get what we want.
6. **I will not be greedy for selfish gain** (v. 6). We are not in this for the money.
7. **I will not seek my own glory** (v. 6). It's not about me.
8. **I will be gentle like a mother** (v. 7). Let's try tenderness before toughness.
9. **I will share my own self** (v. 8). The pastor must freely and openly give two things to his people: he must give the gospel, and he must give himself.
10. **I will work hard** (v. 9). This is not an excuse to neglect one's family or personal discipline and rest, but we should not be afraid of toil and effort.
11. **I will pursue personal holiness** (v. 10). It's hard to take people where we have not gone ourselves.
12. **I will exhort like a Father** (v. 11-12). The preacher is not a hothead, but he's also not a softy. He's not trying to make everyone mad, but he's not trying to make everyone happy either.

[Taken from "12 Pastoral Commitments (Or, How to Pray for Your Pastor)" by Kevin DeYoung.]

Thank you for your prayers!

Your Friend & Minister

Scott Cameron



DIARY SUMMER 2019

JUNE

EVENT	VENUE	TIME
2 Family Service Keswick Ayrshire	High Kirk Park Hotel, Kilmarnock	10:30am 7pm
4 Word Alive	Manse	2:30pm
5 Rainbow Club Party Discipleship Group Prayer Group	Manse Gardens Church Hall StMA	10am 1pm 6pm
7 Prayer Time John Blanchard Tour	High Kirk Dalry Trinity	6:45pm 7:30pm
9 Communion Service Celtic Praise Night	High Kirk South Beach Baptist	10:30am 7pm
12 Discipleship Group GB Display Night Prayer Group	Church Hall Church Hall StMA	1pm 6pm 6pm
14 Prayer Time Revival Fellowship	High Kirk Manse	6:45pm 7:30pm
16 Prizegiving Service Youth Club	High Kirk Ardeer Halls	10:30am 6.30pm
19 Discipleship Group Prayer Group	Church Hall StMA	1pm 6pm
21 Prayer Time	High Kirk	6:45pm
23 Morning Service Church Lunch	High Kirk Church Hall	10:30am 11:45am
26 Discipleship Group Prayer Group	Church Hall StMA	1pm 6pm
28 Prayer Time	High Kirk	6:45pm
30 Morning Service	High Kirk	10:30am

JULY

EVENT	VENUE	TIME
7 Morning Service	High Kirk	10:30am
14 Morning Service	High Kirk	10:30am
20 Family Fun Day	Manse Gardens	2pm
21 Morning Service Church Lunch	High Kirk Church Hall	10:30am 11:45am
22 Holiday Club	Church Hall	11am
23 Holiday Club Youth Night	Church Hall Ardeer Hall	11am 7pm
24 Holiday Club	Church Hall	11am

25	Holiday Club Youth Night	Church Hall Ardeer Hall	11am 7pm
27	Messy Church	Livingstone Hall	12pm
28	Morning Service Praise Afternoon	High Kirk High Kirk	10:30am 3pm

AUGUST

EVENT	VENUE	TIME
4 Morning Service	High Kirk	10:30am
11 Morning Service	High Kirk	10:30am
18 Morning Service	High Kirk	10:30am
25 Morning Service	High Kirk	10:30am
27 Kirk Session	StMA	7pm
30 Korean Revival Night	Church Hall	7.30pm

North Ayrshire School Holidays:

Monday 1st July - Friday 16th August (inclusive)
School starts back Monday 19th August

Minister's Summer Annual Leave:

28th June - 19th July; 9th - 16th August

(While our minister is on annual leave, our guest preacher will be **Rev John Carrick**.)

UK & Ireland Tour 2019

"The Sweet Sorrows"
with guests "Mayfair Lane"

An evening of Celtic Praise!

Sunday 9th June
South Beach Baptist Church, Saltcoats.

Doors open 6.30pm for 7pm start.

This is a FREE event, but donations are welcome on the night.

High Kirk News

SUMMER MISSION WEEK

Saturday 20th July - Sunday 28th July 2019

Our **'Fun Day'** is on Saturday 20th July at 2pm in the High Kirk Gardens for all the family. We will be inviting the community to join us and there will be bouncy castles, face painting, craft, games and activities for the children. Please come and enjoy the barbeque, tea, coffee and refreshments. All the events throughout the week are free. This is a great opportunity for us to share God's love and get to know our neighbours.

The **'Wastewatchers' Kid's Club** will run from Monday 22nd to Thursday 25th July at 11am - 1.30pm in the High Kirk Church Hall. This is for children entering Primary 2 and up to Primary 7. Lunch will be provided. A bus has been arranged to pick up children at Ardeer Church at 10.30am and Hayocks Community Centre at 10.45am. All children need to have a completed registration form before they can take part. You can register at the Fun Day or between 1pm - 2pm on Sunday 21st July in High Kirk Church Hall or on day of event. Please come in time to register before the bus is due to leave.

There will be two **Youth Nights** for P6 - S6 on Tuesday 23rd and Thursday 25th July in Ardeer Church Hall at 7pm - 9pm. Come along for an evening of games, quizzes, food and a chat with friends. Registration forms are required. Bus will leave Hayocks Hall at 6.35pm and return approx 9.15pm.

On Saturday 27th July, there will be a **Messy Church** event in Livingstone Church, New Street at 12 noon - 2pm. Families and children of all ages are welcome. There is a wide variety of activities, crafts, puzzles, stories, singing and finishing with lunch. Come along and join in the fun! It is all free! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

We are also inviting the children from the Kid's Club and the Youth Nights and their families to join with all the Churches in the town for an **'Afternoon Praise Service'** at 3pm on Sunday 28th July in the High Kirk. Please come along and let us praise the Lord for this year's Summer Mission.



A Very Special Happy Birthday to our Minister



Scott Cameron!!

We will be having a church lunch after the morning service on Sunday 23rd June to celebrate Scott's birthday.

Everyone welcome to come along and join in the celebrations!



GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEWS

The General Assembly is a significant annual event in the Church of Scotland calendar. Throughout the week, commissioners to the General Assembly examine its work and laws and make decisions that affect the future of the Church. People enjoy watching the proceedings for the passionate debates, special guests, festivities and large-scale worship. This year, First minister Nicola Sturgeon has praised the Kirk for the "enormous and highly valued contribution" made across Scotland and beyond.

Moderator of the General Assembly 2019

A Stirling University economics graduate who spent three years living out of a car in Zambia is the newly appointed Moderator of the Church of Scotland's General Assembly for 2019. Rev Colin Sinclair, who is the minister for Palmerston Place Church in Edinburgh, began his year-long role of ambassador for the Church of Scotland in May 2019 at the General Assembly, succeeding the 2018-19 Moderator Rt Rev Susan Brown.

General Assembly rejects divestment call

The General Assembly has recognised that the world is in the grip of a climate and ecological emergency but rejected calls for divestment. Commissioners voted 303 to 263 to defeat a motion brought forward by Rev Gordon Strang which urged the Investors Trust to divest from oil and gas companies by the end of 2020. The Church holds shares in BP, Shell and Total. Seonaid Knox, clerk to the National Youth Assembly, seconded Mr Strang's counter-motion. She said: "It's extremely disheartening that the General Assembly has yet again voted to continue to invest in fossil fuels. It's deeply frustrating that we have yet again delayed acting on the climate emergency we face. While it's positive that more commissioners were in favour of divesting compared with 2018, the reality is that despite youth and international delegates stressing the urgency of the matter our pleas fell on deaf ears. We will continue to push for divestment and for local congregations to reduce their carbon footprint."

General Assembly approves Radical Action Plan

A three-year radical action plan to reform the Church of Scotland has been approved by the General Assembly.

Dr Sally Bonnar, convener of the Council of Assembly, described the decisions as "far reaching" and a demonstration that the Kirk is listening and facing up to reality. But she said the message sent out by the General Assembly was also one of "we are not content to manage decline" and open to change. She expressed that the 17 actions of reform agreed represented a strong commitment to grow the Kingdom of God on earth in a more effective way.

The most significant proposal approved by commissioners is to establish a Growth Fund of £20 million to £25 million for the period 2020-2027. The money will be taken from reserves and allocated around criteria focused on growth, impact and sustainability with clearly agreed targets. Applications will primarily come from individual congregations, groups of churches and presbyteries to fund church planting and projects working with children, young people and families. The Growth Fund will replace the Go For It Fund which has spent millions on supporting community projects the length and breadth of the country.

The General Assembly also approved plans to reduce the number of presbyteries from 45 to around 12.

Speaking afterwards, Dr Bonnar said she hoped commissioners would return to their parishes with a sense of excitement for the future. "The Church has made some far reaching decisions, not all those actions will be put into place straight away obviously and a lot of work is needed to flesh out what was decided. The General Assembly this year has really got the bit between its teeth in terms of moving the Church forward and modernising. I hope they have a clear message to take back that we are a Church that is not content to manage decline. The decisions made over the last two days tell us that this is a Church that is listening, facing up to realities and is ready to change. We are a Church that wants to grow the Kingdom of God and take the messages of the Gospel out to people of Scotland in a more effective way. I hope people will go away from this General Assembly with a sense they have achieved something and made a difference."

Assembly appoints 12-person trustee body

The General Assembly has agreed to appoint 12 people to be Assembly Trustees. A selection committee convened by Very Rev Russell Barr presented the names to the General Assembly in line with the reforms passed by the Assembly on Monday (20 May). Members will serve for three, two and one-year terms to ensure continuity as well as change.

Commissioners rejected an amendment by Dr Alison Elliot regretting the lack of gender balance on the new trustee body and urging the nominations committee to seek equal numbers of men and women for 2020. Diversity in age was also discussed as well as the potential influence of a Church 'establishment'.

Kirk Session News

Congratulations!

Lex Montgomery and Janet Dawson celebrate 40 years as elders of the High Kirk. Lex and Janet were ordained in June of 1979. Well done, good and faithful!

New Pastoral Carers

We are delighted to welcome Margaret McCaa, Janet Robertson, Moyra Teven & Karen May into the Pastoral Care team. Please give them a warm welcome as they get involved in visiting members of our church.

Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers who are willing to serve the Lord with their talents, time and smiles in the various vacant posts. We are especially looking for volunteers in the following areas:

1. Administration:

- a. Taking bookings for the hall lets.
- b. Administrator / Roll keeper.
- c. Photocopying of the weekly Order of Service sheet & quarterly Challenge magazine.

2. Property & Grounds:

- a. Caretaker for church and/or hall.
- b. Garden team to maintain grounds.

3. Other Practical Areas:

- a. Delivering crisis bags.
- b. Help with the sound system
- c. join a team to help serve at Coffee mornings & church lunches
- d. delivering CDs, leaflets & posters

We can offer a period of training for any of the posts (above), or let us know if you can help in any area not mentioned! Contact Rev Scott Cameron on 463356 or email him on: Scott.Cameron@churchofscotland.org.uk.

Church Refurbishment

We hope to get underway once again with our refurbishment project, which will primarily look at removal of pews, and installation of a new heating system. The Kirk Session will meet in August to start planning for the future. Please join us in prayer, as we seek to move forward with God.



COVENANT FELLOWSHIP SCOTLAND

Dear friend,

Just to let you know that Covenant Fellowship Scotland issued a press statement yesterday in the run-up to the General Assembly. Here is what it said...

Think tank: New Kirk structure “must help congregations engage in mission”

Radical proposals from the Church of Scotland, which would see smaller Presbyteries merged into larger regional groupings will only be fruitful if they help congregations reach out to the public with the Gospel, an evangelical think tank has said.

Covenant Fellowship Scotland, which represents hundreds of ministers, elders and members across the country, believes that structural reforms alone are “not sufficient”.

On Monday (20th May) hundreds of commissioners will debate the proposals – thought to be the biggest organisational changes to the Kirk for well over a decade – at its annual General Assembly in Edinburgh.

Rev Louis Kinsey, chairman of Covenant Fellowship Scotland, said:

“The Church of Scotland needs to have structures that will make, grow, send and care for disciples in a way that gives glory to God and is faithful in its Biblical witness.

“These structures must prioritise the Gospel, finding ways to enable local congregations to engage in local mission.

“Looking at Church structures in isolation is not sufficient.

“This vital work must be accompanied by the kind of clear priorities indicated in the General Assembly report.

“The membership statistics speak for themselves – if congregations are not assisted to share the good and life-transforming news of Jesus Christ, then all this is doing is rearranging the deckchairs on the Titanic.”

Mr Kinsey added:

“Of the different images given of the church in the New Testament, the church described as a vine seems to be most helpful in this context. The vine is to grow and to bear fruit and to help it do that it needs a trellis to allow it to do so.

“The Bible itself is clear from beginning to end that church structures matter. From Jethro’s advice to Moses to the early chapters in Acts, we see God’s people changing in response to events around them, trying to work out the best way to allow the vine to grow.

“The danger for any generation is that we exercise loyalty to the trellis at the expense of the vine or think that the vine is there to serve the trellis and not the other way around.”

<http://www.covenantfellowshipscotland.com>

Many Thanks

*To our Minister, Scott, and all at the
High Kirk for all good wishes, flowers,
cards and phone calls on my birthday
It was very much appreciated.
Love to all.
Myra.*

Tea, a Scottish Tale, and the Transforming Power of God's Grace.

By Sheila Walsh.

"Suffering, failure, loneliness, sorrow, discouragement and death will be part of your journey, but the Kingdom of God will conquer all these horrors. No evil can resist grace forever" — Brennan Manning

A couple of weeks after I'd been released from the psychiatric hospital in the early 1990s, Ruth Bell Graham invited me to spend a few days at their North Carolina home. I flew into the Asheville airport. One of their staff picked me up and drove me the thirty minutes to their house set high in the mountains. Ruth met me at the gate and introduced me to their two German shepherds. Apparently, it was important that they knew I was a friend. Amen to that!

It was a lovely afternoon, so we sat outside in rocking chairs, drinking iced tea and enjoying the quiet. Ruth could see that I was tired, so after dinner she showed me to my bedroom and asked if I'd like a cup of tea. It's a memory that I treasure. There was a high bed with little wooden steps beside it and crisp white linens that Ruth told me she'd bought in Switzerland. I was tucked up in bed when she came back with my tea and asked if she could read to me. She sat at the bottom of the bed with an old Scottish book, "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush" by Ian MacLaren. She thumbed through the well-worn pages until she found what she was looking for, "The Transformation of Lachlan Campbell."

Ruth asked me if I knew the story, but I didn't. So, she said, "It's about a young girl, Flora Campbell, whose mother had died. Her strict, judgmental father, Lachlan, now raised her. Their home was a truly graceless place, so one day Flora ran away to London. Her father was so furious that he removed her name from the family Bible. She was wretched and alone in London."

"One night she made her way into a church," Ruth continued, and she began to read of an experience of grace — an image of hope appearing in Flora's mind's eye as she sat in the quiet of the sanctuary:

"You maybe know that a wounded deer will try to hide herself, and I crept into the shadow of a church, and wept. Then the people and the noise and the houses passed away like the mist on the hill, and I was walking to the kirk with my father, oh

yes, and I saw you all in your places, and I heard the Psalms, and I could see through the window the green fields and the trees on the edge of the moor. And I saw my home, with the dogs before the door, and the flowers that I planted, and the lamb coming for her milk, and I heard myself singing, and I awoke. But there was singing, oh yes, and beautiful too, for the dark church was open, and the light was falling over my head ... and this was the hymn — 'There is a fountain filled with blood.'"

Ruth paused for a moment. "Life is unbearable without grace," she said. "They both needed it, the daughter and the father. This is my favourite part, when Flora makes her way home." She continued to read:

"When she reached the door, her strength had departed, and she was not able to knock. But there was no need, for the dogs, who never forget nor cast off, were bidding her welcome with short joyous yelps of delight, and she could hear her father feeling for the latch, which for once could not be found, and saying nothing but "Flora, Flora." She had made up some kind of speech, but the only word she ever said was "Father," for Lachlan, who had never even kissed her all the days of her youth, clasped her in his arms and sobbed out blessings over her head, while the dogs licked her hands with their soft, kindly tongues."

I'll never forget that night or the grace that was lavished all over me by Ruth. As I left, she gave me her copy of the book.

I can't tell you how many times I have picked up this gift and turned once more through the well-worn pages until I found Lachlan and Flora's story. It ends like this: "Flora Campbell. Missed April 1873. Found September 1873. 'Her father fell on her neck and kissed her.'"

Flora's is the story of the prodigal son. It's the story of the lost daughter. It's the story of anyone who longs for grace, and when God's grace finds you, you can't keep it to yourself. It has to ring out like church bells: I was lost but now I'm found.

Submitted by Mildred Burns

Church Membership Explained.

By Tim Sinclair

** Appeared in the March issues of Partick Trinity's church magazine – Trinity Times*

What is membership all about?

Church membership is open to all those who have been baptised (or would like to be) and are prepared to publicly profess their faith in Jesus. In practical terms, you are asked to make vows and your name is added to a formal document called the church roll. Like other memberships, joining the church comes with responsibilities and privileges.

On a deeper level, underpinning our practice of welcoming and admitting individuals into membership is a profound spiritual truth: There is no such thing as an autonomous Christian. Every Christian woman, man, or child is part of something bigger than themselves. One of the ways that the bible conveys this truth is through the image of a body. Paul writes to the Christians in Corinth:

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

The language of membership is drawn from this image of a body (the origin of the word 'member' is the Latin word *membrum*, meaning: 'limb'). A list of names on a membership role might not seem especially spiritual, but it is an attempt to take seriously our shared identity as set out by Paul in Ephesians 4:4-5:

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

Joining the church is not how you become a Christian. Rather, joining the church is a way in which a Christian publicly proclaims their faith in Jesus and recognises their new identity in Him and as part of his Church. It is an act of 'nailing your colours to the mast'. Today, this kind of commitment is profoundly counter-cultural. One aspect of our increasingly secular age is the pressure to keep faith private. Faith is acutely personal: it touches our

inner thoughts and feelings, hopes and fears, our identity and ambitions. But our faith in Christ is to find expression in the whole of our lives: public and private; Monday to Sunday; alone and with others. The option of divorcing your private and public self is pursued by many in our society, but it is not open to followers of Jesus.

What commitments am I asked to make?

In joining the church, you are asked to respond to four simple questions with the words 'I do'. The first question concerns your belief in God, your confession of Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and your commitment to meeting with other Christians to worship on a Sunday. The other three establish your commitment to bible reading and prayer, living and speaking for Jesus, and serving and supporting the work of the church in the world. For some of you to take these vows would be to make a public commitment to what you are already doing (or trying to do!) as part of our church family. For others, it might involve a step towards a deeper commitment in terms of your personal devotional life, your giving or service in the life of the church.

Why should I bother with this? Is it not just a formality?

I once wrestled with these questions myself. I became a Christian many years before I felt any desire far less a need to join the church in a formal sense. Let me suggest four reasons, drawn from my personal experience, why I think membership is more than a formality and is actually very precious:

1. It was a meaningful but unshowy way of expressing my private convictions in public.
2. The act of publicly professing my faith in the presence of a family of believers who were committed to me, remembering me in prayer, and sharing their lives with me, was a profound experience.

3. I came to discover how much of an encouragement it was for others in the church to see myself and others commit to Christ and to the church. It is humbling to think that your simple 'I do' might represent the happy answer to the prayers of someone else.

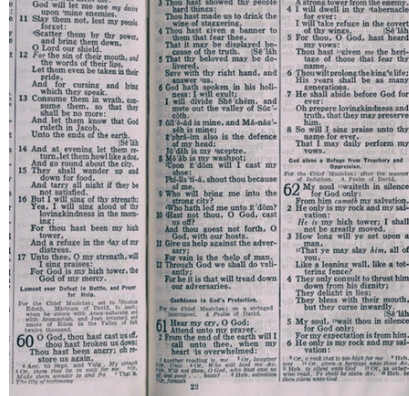
4. A whole bundle of smaller and largely practical reasons. The Church of Scotland, of which we are a part, has built the concept of membership into all of its structures. Therefore, it is easier to participate in the wider life of our church if you have dotted the I's and crossed the T's. At a local level, it is easier for our elders and pastoral care team to identify and look after folk who are members. At a national level, you can only explore a call to full-time ministry if you have been a member for more than three years. I had only been a member for 3 years and 2 months when quite unexpectedly (at least as far as I was concerned) I applied for ministry.

I am willing to think about this some more, what should I do?

Please get in touch with the Minister: in person, by email, or on the phone. He would be very happy to chat through what this might mean for you and how you can join the High Kirk.

A Paraphrase of Psalm 1 by David Wilson

*Blessed is the one each day each week,
Who does not godless counsel seek
And does not with the sinners stand
Nor sit with scoffers close at hand
But in God's law he finds delight
Both in the daytime and at night
His life will always bear good fruit
As living water feeds the root
The Lord his work will always bless
In serving God he'll find success.
The wicked do not live this way
Like chaff their works are blown away
Before the Lord they will not stand
And from his presence they are banned
While God his children's ways will cherish
The ways of godless men will perish*



Word Alive (Autumn)

**Tuesday 29th October -
Tuesday 3rd December 2019**

This is being written as we enter the last part of our series in 2nd Thessalonians. As ever we are greatly encouraged at the interest, commitment and enthusiasm of the group.

Friendships are formed, faith shared and a growing awareness of the need to study God's Word as we grow together in Him.

It's not too early to put the dates in your diary or calendar for our Autumn meetings! As ever we delight to meet in the Manse at 2.30pm each Tuesday where we sing, read God's Word, pray and study the Scriptures.

Nearer the time we will furnish details of the topic, but to date I feel drawn to do a study on the life of one of Christ's Disciples. Perhaps "Diary of a Disciple" would be an appropriate title!

In any case, thanks to all who regularly attend Word Alive and keep praying for it. Looking forward to being with you all later in the year.

Have a happy summer!

God Bless

Norman Cruickshank

SANNOX PRAYER NEWS

Encounter Events

31 May-1 June – Walking the Ancient Paths. This event was going to be led by Roy Searle but unfortunately Roy is unwell and is not able to travel. We are working with Roy to find a replacement and will let you know as soon as we can what is happening.

5-6 July – Rest and Restoration Weekend. This will be a time of worship, rest and restoration led by the Sannox Team. There will be no formal teaching but opportunities to worship through music and creative arts or to walk the paths and beaches around Sannox. Fiona will be offering massage as well. Email admin@sannox.org for more information and to book accommodation.

2-5 August – Arran Open Studios. We are hoping to have the church wind and watertight to accommodate workshops even though it will just be four walls, a roof and an earth floor!

6-7 September – Song writing workshop led by Jim Farrell, Francis McFaul, Adam Walsh and George Hazel. A weekend of worship through music releasing new songs from Sannox for the Kingdom. Email admin@sannox.org for more information and to book.

Restoration of the church and manse

The building works are moving at pace with the church roof removed and the new roof trusses being built and fitted. All the demolition works have been completed and now we rebuild. The weather vane, which was broken and seized is now restored to its former glory on top of the bell tower. It looks magnificent and is the first element of the refurbished church in place. The bell tower is well on the way to being restored and the new roof is being fitted. The current contract includes the refurbishment of the roof and bell tower and church windows but not the floor of the church and fitting out the interior. The Directors felt strongly that the Lord was guiding us to pray and plan for the full restoration of the church and this is what we are now doing. Our Executive Director, George, has been asked to look at the financial options available regarding funding the completion of the church building. Please pray for us as we look at these options.

Work Party in July

We are putting together a work party for the middle two weeks of July. This is to paint the outside of the church (current building works are due to finish at the beginning of June) and build the temporary kitchen and toilets to service the church. We need painters, labourers and those with building skills to come and help. If you can come for a week or a few days email Heidi at admin@sannox.org.

Financial Plan

The Directors discussed the Financial Plan developed by our Finance Group. This involved looking at the funding of the building works, reducing our costs to ensure our income is greater than our costs and actioning a marketing plan to increase the guest usage of the centre. We have cut our monthly costs by around £1,000 which has moved our finances into the black. This is mainly due to a voluntary reduction in our staff costs. We are developing a list of actions to increase the awareness of SCC so that more people use the centre. One of the actions is to develop a summary brochure that you could distribute to your networks if you felt it was appropriate. Please pray for us as we implement our financial plan and continue to pray that God will release the resources we need.

We bless you, in the name of Jesus, to receive all that the Father has for you and thank you for your continuing support of His work at SCC. May we see more and more people being rested, restored and revived at Sannox in 2019.



Faith Hacking:

A Simple Method to Organise Your Prayers

By Tim Challies

I love to discover what I call “faith hacks”—practical methods or techniques for living the Christian life. As I read, as I listen to sermons, as I speak to people, I am always looking for insights on how other Christians live out their faith in practical ways. I recently shared an ultra-practical way to display servant leadership. Today I am shifting to prayer.

The Bible tells us not only that we can pray, but that we should and must pray. Prayer is one of the great responsibilities and the great privileges of being a Christian. Yet prayer is also difficult. It is difficult to pray effectively and it is difficult to pray systematically.

Christians have created many patterns and systems to help them as they pray. One of my favourites is John Piper’s model of praying in concentric circles. In a January, 2000 sermon on Paul’s call to prayer in Colossians 4:2 he gave a description of how he organises his prayers.

- Consider praying in concentric circles from your own soul outward to the whole world. This is my regular practice. I pray for my own soul first. Not because I am more deserving than others, but because if God doesn’t awaken and strengthen and humble and fill my own soul, then I can’t pray for anybody else’s. So I plead with the Lord every morning for my own soul’s perseverance and purification and power.
- Then I go to the next concentric circle, my family, and I pray for each of them by name: Noel, Karsten/Shelly/Millie, Benjamin, Abraham, Barnabas, Talitha and some of my extended family.
- Then I go to the next concentric circle, the staff and elders of Bethlehem. I name them all by name.
- Then I pray for you, Bethlehem Baptist Church. And then I go out from there to different concerns and groups at different times: our missionaries, our denomination and its schools, the Baptist General Conference, Evangelicalism in general and the church around the world, especially the suffering church. The wider circles include the city and the state and the nation and the cultural and social issues of the world.
- You can’t pray for everything every time. So there need to be differences. And your heart will dictate much of your burden. Some days one family member or one staff member or one crisis in the church or the world will consume most of your time. But if you have a pattern—like the concentric circles—you won’t spin your wheels wondering where to start.

It is that simple and that practical: Begin close and pray in widening circles.

MY STORY

By

Marianne Relton

Marianne has been worshipping here at the High Kirk for the past year, and it has been a joy to see her growing in her faith. Here she shares her own personal testimony to the grace of God in her life...

By summer 2016, my life was in a mess. I had been on drugs for 30 years and for 20 of those years, I had been “chasing the dragon”. In a short period of time, I had lost everybody I was close to. I was depressed, anxious and very angry. I was mentally unstable and violent. I was hearing voices in my head - they led me to self-harm and, in all, I was heading for an early grave. I had been heavily involved in the occult in my teenage years but did not realise that I had opened a door for demonic forces to mess up my life.

Then – just about literally – the hand of God came and held me and this began a healing process. In October 2017, I stopped taking heroin and then, after two weeks, I took it again. By that time, I had been watching Christian preachers on the You Tube, etc, and God was clearly working in my life. After I had this relapse, I was deeply convicted about my need to repent deeply for my actions and to receive mercy and forgiveness. I was totally broken in spirit and fully understood that I needed a Saviour and “Master” of my life. I told Jesus to take my life and to save me from myself. I surrendered everything I was to Jesus Christ.

From that time, things began to change. I stopped taking drugs and the anger and violence went, along with the depression and anxiety. For about a year after this, I felt I was burning inside. All that Satan had used to keep me in bondage was being burned up like chaff.

When I first took the step of attending church, I had no boldness of spirit but I was able to believe that Jesus had made a covenant with me and He had set me free. I am still far from perfect but I am a totally different person. The Bible, which I devour now all the time, explains that I am “justified” - that is, God regards me like I never sinned; the charge sheet is blank because Jesus took responsibility for ALL my wrong-doing. However, as life goes on, I am being made holier in actuality each day by the Holy Spirit, who now lives in me. The Bible calls this “sanctification”.

Anyone who has not begun living humbly under the mighty hand of God hasn't even begun to live. Simple faith is amazing. My life has done a complete turn-around and I praise my Lord every day. I am Christ's - and the really good news is that He is mine! May He reign forever in my heart and in His church - and together may we turn the world upside-down!

KESWICK NEWS

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to report that today the Lake District National Park has given final approval to our planning application for the Pencil Factory site! We give great thanks to the Lord and a huge thank you to you, too, for your prayers and support. We're ready to go!

This opens the way for more people across the world to be impacted for Christ by those who've come to Keswick and been refreshed, inspired and equipped to serve Christ.

Christians across the generations will be able to share fellowship at the Convention on one site, and more teaching and training events can take place through the year. There will be a resource hub for the Church and Christian organisations in the North of England/Scotland, as well as further afield; and the town of Keswick will have access to a unique facility.

We so appreciate your ongoing partnership as we look towards the next steps of the venture.

Every blessing,

James Robson (Ministry Director)

Volunteer opportunities for Keswick Convention 2019!

We are so thankful for the hundreds of volunteers who have already signed up to serve at this summer's Convention. Our teams are filling up fast!

However, we do have some spaces still available in our café team in week two (Saturday 20 - Friday 26 July) and week three (Saturday 27 July - Friday 2 August), and also on our fundraising team in week three.

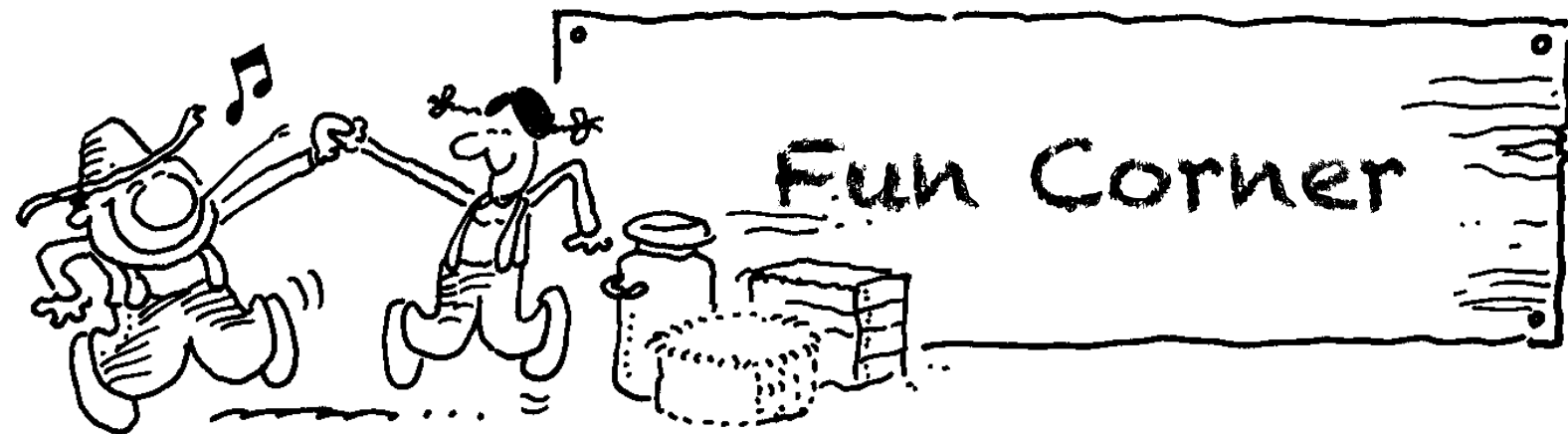
The fundraising role involves working as part of a small team primarily during the morning and evening meetings. The team inputs gift information into an electronic database and records gift aid as appropriate. Volunteers must have experience in using a computer and have a good eye for detail. This is a vital role during the Convention.

For the café team, volunteers will be based in Base Camp at the Rawnsley site. Tasks involve carrying out general café jobs, ensuring the smooth running of the café and serving customers. The role also includes making sure that café tables and seating are clean and tidy. Full training will be given.

If you're interested in either of the above roles, please get in touch.

To apply, sign up to our website. Once you have logged in you will be able to access the Volunteer Support Team Application Form. Please complete and submit it, and someone will be in touch with you in due course.





Can You guess the anagrams of the Old Testament books?

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| 1. Burns me | _____ |
| 2. Chair haze | _____ |
| 3. Eds jug | _____ |
| 4. Evil is cut | _____ |
| 5. Hail Mac | _____ |
| 6. Hurt | _____ |
| 7. I jam here | _____ |
| 8. On gloom of sons | _____ |
| 9. Our needy Tom | _____ |
| 10. Rich clones | _____ |
| 11. See sign | _____ |
| 12. Select as ices | _____ |
| 13. Threes | _____ |
| 14. Tom anneals it | _____ |
| 15. Used ox | _____ |

- A man takes his Rottweiler to the vet. 'My dog's cross-eyed, is there anything you can do for him?' 'Well, 'says the vet, 'let's have a look at him' so he picks the dog up and examines his eyes, then checks his teeth. Finally, he says 'I'm going to have to put him down. 'What? Because he's cross-eyed?' No, because he's really heavy'
- Last night I dreamed I ate a ten-pound marshmallow, and when I woke up the pillow was gone.
- A man walked into the doctor's, The doctor said 'I haven't seen you in a long time' The man replied, 'I know I've been ill'.
- A man walked into the doctor's, he said 'I've hurt my arm in several places'. The doctor said 'well don't go there any more'.
- One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, 'Good morning Alex'. 'Good morning Pastor,' he replied, still focused on the plaque. 'Pastor, what is this?' The pastor said, 'Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service.' Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, 'Which service, the 8:30 or the 10:30?'

Books of the Old Testament

Word Search

M C R O M A D A H A I M E H E N D
A L E V I S K U K K A B A H A S E
L E X O A N I E Z E K I E L L O U
A V C H R O N I C L E S A E H N T
C I H O Z I G C R O M E O U A G E
H T A P E T S E G D U J O M C O R
I I I R A A H O S A M O S A I F O
H C M O E T A G E N E S I S M S N
A U E V S N I O X E X H T U R O O
I S R E O E A B O J M U H A N L M
R Z E R H M S P D A N A L R Z O Y
A A J B E A I N U M B E R S N M E
H C P S A L M S S L E I N A D O S
C H G S E T S A I S E L C C E N I
E A O B A D I A H A N O J A S P S
Z M I A G G A H A I N A H P E Z M

GENESIS

EXODUS

LEVITICUS

NUMBERS

DEUTERONOMY

JOSHUA

JUDGES

RUTH

SAMUEL

KINGS

CHRONICLES

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

ESTHER

JOB

PSALMS

PROVERBS

ECCLESIASTES

SONG OF SOLOMON

ISAIAH

JEREMIAH

LAMENTATIONS

EZEKIEL

DANIEL

HOSEA

JOEL

AMOS

OBADIAH

JONAH

MICAH

NAHUM

HABAKKUK

ZEPHANIAH

HAGGAI

ZECHARIAH

MALACHI



IN LOVING MEMORY

- Obituaries

JAN McWHINNIE

Sadly Jan McWhinnie died at home on 17th April 2019. She was beloved wife of Benny and dear mother of Brian, Lesley and Janey and mother-in-law of Dhana and Ritchie. She was also a much loved Nana of Christopher, Declan, Nicole, Naeve and Cara. She lived all her life in Stevenston and grew up with her siblings - Alex, Billy, Betty and Mamie. Her childhood years were spent at Mayfield Farm and then onto Hamilton Crescent.

On leaving Stevenston Higher Grade she began training in hairdressing at "Betty's Salon" while attending Stowe College in Glasgow. Having two sisters meant her skills were in great demand when a 'hairdo' was required for a special occasion. In later years, and with so many nieces and nephews, her scissors were constantly carried in her bag.

Jan had made wonderful friendships through her church family here at the High Kirk, where she grew up attending Sunday school and the Girls' Guildry. When the children were younger, she joined the Young Mother's Group. She especially enjoyed taking part in the shows that the Young Mother's Group would put on for the Women's Guild. Jan also loved helping out at the Creche where she was greatly loved and appreciated. Over the years she faithfully collected for various charities, including Christian Aid.

Today we continue to remember Benny and all the family in our prayers, giving thanks to God for all the cherished memories.



IRENE DAVIDSON

Mary Irene Keig, known to us all as Irene, was born on the Isle of Man on the 9th of September 1935 to Harold & Mary Catherine Keig. There she grew up attending the local school in Ramsay with her sister Pat and brother Clark. She married Jimmy Davidson on the 9th of July 1955 in Ramsay and then they were overjoyed to see the arrivals of their children - George, Jacqueline, Jim, Diane and Billy (now deceased). They were also greatly encouraged being grand parents to their eight grand children and four great grandchildren.

Irene was very proud of all her family, but she also had another great love - her Church family at the High Kirk. It was here where she came and fell in love with her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. After professing her faith in Christ, she just longed to have a closer walk with God. She loved the prayer meetings, Friday nights in the Manse, the Spring and Autumn Word Alive courses, and her House Group with the "Golden Girls". To Irene, her faith wasn't just about listening and learning about God, it was a living and active faith which was expressed in serving others.

At the High Kirk we will always remember her commitment to the High Kirk Guild where she had been the treasurer, and her involvement in the Tape & CD Ministry, and many other activities in the life of the church. We especially remember her many years of faithful service as an Elder. She was a woman of great faith and character, a straight talker, loving, loyal, and friendly. Please continue to remember Irene's family in your prayers.

Friday 7th June 7.30pm,
Dalry Trinity Church, The Cross, Dalry, KA24 5AL
enquiries: Martin Thomson 01294 832363



An evening with
JOHN BLANCHARD

WHERE IS GOD

WHEN THINGS

GO WRONG?

Daily Bible Readings 2019

“Praying Through The Bible”

DAY	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
1	Lamentations 3:55-66	Psalms 103:1-13	Luke 6:12-16
2	Lamentations 5:1-22	Psalms 46	Luke 8:22-25
3	Ezekiel 4:9-17	Matthew 6:9-13	Luke 9:28-36
4	Ezekiel 9:1-11	Psalms 22:27-31	Psalms 65:1-4
5	Ezekiel 11:13-25	Matthew 6:5-13	Luke 11:1-4
6	Daniel 2:17-23	Psalms 40:1-9	Luke 11:5-13
7	Daniel 6:1-17	Matthew 7:7-11	Luke 15:11-21
8	Daniel 9:1-13	Matthew 8:1-5	Luke 16:22-31
9	Daniel 9:14-19	Matthew 8:5-13	Luke 17:1-6
10	Daniel 10:10-19	Matthew 8:28-34	Luke 17:11-19
11	Daniel 12:8-13	Matthew 9:19-26	Luke 18:1-8
12	Joel 1:19-20	Mark 5:25-34	Luke 18:9-14
13	Joel 2:12-17	Matthew 9:27-31	Luke 18:35-43
14	Amos 7:1-6	Matthew 9:35-38	Luke 22:31-32
15	Jonah 1:10-17	Matthew 11:25-27	Luke 23:26-34
16	Jonah 2:1-10	Luke 10:21-22	Psalms 35:11-18
17	Jonah 3:1-10	Matthew 14:13-21	Luke 23:39-43
18	Jonah 4:1-11	Matthew 15:21-28	Luke 23:44-49
19	Matthew 12:39-41	Matthew 18:15-20	Luke 24:50-53
20	Habakkuk 1:1-2:4	Matthew 20:20-28	John 4:1-26
21	Habakkuk 3:1-19	Matthew 21:18-22	John 11:38-44
22	Malachi 1:1-5	Matthew 23:13-14	John 12:20-33
23	Malachi 1:6-14	Matthew 25:14-30	John 17:1-5
24	Malachi 2:17-3:7	Matthew 26:36-46	Psalms 119:113-120
25	Malachi 3:8-12	Matthew 27:39-44	John 17:3-5
26	Malachi 3:13-18	Mark 6:45-52	John 17:6-8
27	Matthew 5:21-26	Mark 9:1-29	John 17:9-10
28	Matthew 6:5-8	Mark 14:32-42	John 17:11-16
29	Psalms 131	Mark 15:33-39	John 17:17-19
30	Matthew 6:5-13	Luke 3:21-22	John 17:20-23
31	Psalms 139:13-18	Luke 5:12-16	