

Monday 13th June 2022

Dear Church of God in Kircubbin,

I have loved these last weeks of being back together in Maxwell's Courtyard - the love, grace, unity and bubbliness which we have experienced is a gift from God. We have continued to hear clearly God speak through his gracing and business in and with Jacob. Our series on "Sending/Going, Changing and Healing" has come to a conclusion and over the summer we are moving on to study 1 Timothy - a letter that has lots to say about how we do church. Please try to sit down and read the whole letter through in one go at some point in the next few days to get the whole picture the way the author intended it.

We want to particularly look at leadership in the church - when we get to our AGM in March we really desire to strengthen our leadership team. We need to learn how to be intentional about growing and recognising new Elders and Deacons in our church. We will all see that this also has implications for each individual’s commitment to the local body of Christ and we should seek to allow God's word to challenge and encourage us as we hear it preached each Sunday.

I would heartily encourage you that, if you miss a Sunday (because of holiday, crèche, illness etc.) please, please use the Sermons tab on the website to spend half an hour listening to the sermon later. This is a series and we will only get the full force of the letter to Timothy, which is also the letter to Kircubbin Community Church, when we hear the complete letter.

On a personal note, I find the burden of leadership of our church without a paid worker very heavy – the administration is hard and time consuming but it is the pastoral and smaller interpersonal issues which really drain, especially on a Sunday morning. I do not have all the answers and very often people can and do need to work out their own solutions to organisational issues in their own ministries – the role of an elder is to oversee and not micro-manage. I think of the role of Moses, Aaron and Hur as Joshua was fighting the battle against the Amalekites. They were up a mountain getting an overall perspective and praying (not shouting down “Watch out, you need more soldiers over there!”) Please help and pray for me as I learn to serve as an elder better.

Thank you all for your grace towards us as leaders and to each other - let's keep on striving forward together. Let’s prioritise prayer.

Love,

Phil