

Connect



Celebrate

Worship and witness in
Erskine

May 2017

Celebrate

Well, its all happening! Brexit. Council Election. General Election. North Korea. Terrorist attacks. But in the midst of doom and gloom, we can find a healthier focus. Here's a wee poem that I offer, neither condemning nor criticising. Simply celebrating.

Celebrate the Promises, Purposes, Presence, Participation and Power of God come through Jesus Christ
Celebrate God as heavenly Father, radiating grace and light
Celebrate the living waters of the Spirit, poured out for life

Celebrate the character and and the covenants of God, revealed in the Bible
Celebrate people remade and reshaped in love through renewal and revival
Celebrate lives called into fellowship and discipleship, more than mere survival

Celebrate commitments to holiness, compassion and forgiveness
Celebrate liberation of the demonised, healing of the wounded
Celebrate justice found and righteousness forged among the discarded

Celebrate men and women, created in the image of God, complementary to one another
Celebrate both singleness and marriage amongst a community of faith, supporting others
Celebrate family life that nurtures and teaches children care and respect for the other

Celebrate peace and joy, the good news that all can find fresh identity and fulfilment in life through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ

Rev Dr Jim Purves
Mission and Ministry Advisor



Worship and witness in Erskine



Erskine Baptist continues to seek to fulfil our purpose which is to be a group of Jesus' followers trying to help others follow Jesus too.

Our last update talked about what Amanda, our community worker, has been doing and her family outreach 'Messy Play' continues to draw in young families with an increasing involvement with the parents.

Worship and witness in Erskine is not carried out in isolation and we recently hosted what is normally an outdoor celebration of Easter with the other churches. This year the rain forced us indoors where we followed the service with our customary hospitality of breakfast rolls and coffee!



Welcome is a feature most churches would claim but we would like to extend a particular welcome to anyone reading this who may be in a larger church and could visit us to bring numerical encouragement to the small group of regular folks. We would really welcome anyone who could exercise gifts of music or other ministries to enable our own people to have a week off. One of our prayer focuses has been to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send labourers in to the harvest. Erskine is a town of over 10,000 and all our churches together amount to less than 10% - the harvest is plentiful.

Rev Peter Dick

The Baptist Union Chaplains' Conference

Around 20 Scottish Baptist ministers serve as full-time chaplains. They work in a variety of contexts including hospitals, hospices, the armed forces, schools, universities, prisons, shopping centres and in workplace chaplaincy. Chaplains find themselves daily on the frontline between the church and the wider community, demonstrating the life of Christ through compassion and availability to people who do not typically attend churches or profess Christian faith. Often the chaplain is the safe and non-anxious person to whom people turn when some of the most challenging life events occur.

Chaplaincy is not a ticket to preach at people but a form of presence within an organisation that allows the light of Jesus to shine through. Often this leads to profound conversations about life and faith and eternity; and often it is simply a call to listen, to serve and to be there.

It can be difficult for chaplains to attend ministers' meetings regularly due to the working hours required by their employer or, especially in the case of those in the armed forces, due to being posted outside of Scotland. With this in mind our Union organises a Chaplains' Conference every spring, providing a space for Baptist chaplains to meet, share stories, encourage one another and consider the particular challenges and opportunities that this calling presents. In the last couple of years the keynote talks have asked 'Would Jesus Make a Good Chaplain?' and considered the way the Apostle Paul offers a model for workplace chaplaincy.

Let's give thanks to God for the frontline ministry of our full-time chaplains and all the other ministers who act as volunteer chaplains in schools, sports clubs and other groups in the community.



Prayer Link May

May 7th

- Al Nicoll (RAF Chaplain)
- Dennistoun Baptist Church
- Denny Baptist Church
- Dingwall Baptist Church

May 14th

- Andrew Oliver (Chaplain, Royal Highland Fusilliers, 2nd Battalion)
- Drumchapel Baptist Church
- Dumbarton Baptist Church
- Dumfries Baptist Church

May 21st

- Adam Plenderleith (Chaplain, Glasgow Royal Infirmary)
- Duncan Street Baptist Church
- Dundee Central Baptist Church
- Dunfermline West Baptist Church

May 28th

- Jack Quinn (Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland)
- Dunoon Baptist Church
- Dunrossness Baptist Church
- East Mains Baptist Church

Al Nicoll - RAF Chaplain

Give thanks for the good response to our Christian mums and tots' group which began at the station church before Christmas; please pray that the relationships formed through that group will be fruitful.

Pray for the weekly Bible Studies, through which a number of our regular church attenders are really starting to grow in maturity and understanding.

Pray for the 2 new chaplains who will join the team in March and April and the 2 who are leaving for different posts at HQ and in the Falkland Islands! Pray for our Christian witness on the station. Pray for the tri-Service call to prayer as part of the "Thy Kingdom Come" initiative, in the period between Ascension and Pentecost; this is a call to pray for the Spirit's empowering to witness within our communities.

Denny

We give thanks for the steady increase in numbers of people attending, & for the impact of DNA groups in the lives of participants and for the impact of the BELLS missional model as it filters through our DNA groups this year.

Pray for discernment as we seek to rethink the shape of some of our services to try and connect them more with the various ministries that help us engage with non-churched people in our community. Pray for us as we continue to seek to move from inherited forms of church to be more of a missional movement.

Dunfermline West

Give thanks for the new young family, a couple with toddler and baby, who have been attending regularly over the past 8 or 9 months and for the faithful group of members and friends.

Please pray for us in our Vacancy situation, that in God's time the right person will come along to pastor us, and that we will remain strong in the Lord as we continue to seek His will.

Dumbarton

Give thanks for good relationships in our new base in the Cutty Sark Centre in Bellsmyre, the arrival of our pastor, Grant Hamilton and his family, a heightened sense of momentum and urgency about the mission of the church, the willingness of the fellowship to adapt to considerable changes and a clear sense of God's leading in the past 12 months.

Please pray for our 3 teams of weekly prayer walkers, our 'Walkers and Witnesses' as they try to discern what God is already doing in Bellsmyre and help the church understand the next steps we should take in that community. Pray also for our church awayday on 23rd April, that this will be a day when the overall vision of the church really begins to take shape.

East Mains Baptist Church

Give thanks for our newly refurbished sanctuary which has given us increased space and a contemporary look.

Please pray as we look forward with anticipation to increasing our staff with the addition of another minister that we may know God's leading and direction in the months ahead.

Dumfries Baptist Church

We give God praise for His continuing financial provision which has enabled us to begin to build our new Church Centre. We are also thankful for the three folks who recently came to faith in Jesus through our Alpha Course and for those who have requested baptism. We are thankful for the partnership we have established with The Usual Place in Dumfries and for the job experience we are able to provide through our Seniors Lunch Club for two young men with learning difficulties.

Please pray for safety for the contractors as they build our new Church Centre. Pray for our spiritual life as a church, that in the midst of a new build project we will keep our focus fixed on people. Pray for our ongoing community engagement and involvement particularly with other community providers which includes varied chaplaincy work in Schools and Medical Centres.

Jack Quinn - Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland

Praise: Regardless of the sensitivities that surround public expressions of faith in the workplace it is most encouraging to engage with the business world without needing to apologise with respect to my Christian faith!

Intercession: The overwhelming need is for the Church in general to embrace the ministry of chaplaincy in the workplace by putting more resources both financial and personnel. The need in the workplace is vast, and the openings are there!

Andrew Oliver - Army Chaplain

Please pray for opportunities to share the gospel with the soldiers of The Royal Highland Fusiliers and for wisdom when helping young soldiers deal with some of the very difficult and oft-times complicated situations they find themselves in. Pray also for my wife Ela in her work as a classroom assistant in Edinburgh and for my children in school in Penicuik, that as they face many new challenges that God will prove to be their strength and guide.

Drumchapel

1. Pray for "time out" (lunch club on Fridays) that those attending come to know and trust Jesus.
2. Pray for children that come to Powerzone on Tuesday nights. For calm and salvation. Over 50 attend.
3. Pray for Eden team and Marcos and Gwen, the leaders of this project, that the team gel and new people join in this incarnational mission into our community.
4. Pray for the Greggs 'bun run' to needy families on Tues, wed, and thursdays, that relationships develop that lead to salvation.

Dingwall Baptist Church

We are in good spirits and sense God's presence among us, week by week, both in or Sunday worship and in our engagement with the local community. We are particularly thankful for the connections made within our community with various groups using our building 5-6 days a week.

Please pray that God would send us more labourers, as well as raising up new ones, so that we are strengthened for the work of his Kingdom here in Dingwall.

Dunrossness Baptist Church

Please pray for the Church as we continue in this our time of vacancy. Pray that God will enable us to attempt great things for Him, and expect great things from Him, as we continue to trust. Pray that we will be able to discern God's will for the future.

Give thanks for good attendance and the sense of shared responsibility in teaching and preaching within the fellowship, and for lay preachers from other Churches who are willing to support us at this time.

Dunoon Baptist Church

Thank God for His unlimited kindness as we have seen Him bless so many different people and bring such a variety into our church, young and old people, new and experienced people and those with all sorts of skills.

Pray for continued guidance with how we reach young people and particularly as we try and build a place for them, that He would provide and bring it all together. Pray also for our Alpha courses and the small groups that have developed from them.

Dundee Central

We give thanks to God for his presence in every phase of church life. The last year has been particularly hard for the Central family, but we give glory to God in seeing a number of people come to faith and our second church plant in Lochee launched.

Please pray for us as we seek to discern together how we might reach the heart of Dundee in the next phase of our mission.



Dr James Brooks

It was with great sadness that we recently learned of the death of Dr Jim Brooks, a past President of the Baptist Union of Scotland. Jim was a man who truly served his Lord with all his heart, soul, mind and strength throughout a very full life. He was a consummate scholar and scientist; a world-wide traveller; a sportsman; a family man; and above all, a committed Christian.

Jim served our Baptist family with great care, love, laughter, wisdom and determination and we are thankful to God for his life, which was dedicated to God in all the spheres he touched. Jim was someone who was always interested in and had time for those he met and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Jan, and the family at this time.

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