

# June 2018 Newsletter



## THE PASTOR'S PEN by Graeme Shanks

### Truth or dare?

The very mention of this game used to strike fear into me when I was young. Which one would I choose? Where would telling the truth lead me? What would taking the risk to dare cost me? Of course it was a much bigger deal in my mind than it was in reality, but to this day I still loathe facing the fear of the unknown.

I've been reminded of this childhood game as I've been reading Paul's first letter to the church in Thessalonica this week. Paul had spent somewhere between two to four weeks in that city speaking the Gospel and sharing his life with the people there. In keeping with the usual pattern in the book of Acts, the message about the crucified, risen and returning Jesus was met with both hunger and hostility! However, despite man's best efforts to stamp the message out, God has supernaturally birthed a church in the heart of this hostile city. As Paul writes back to these Thessalonian Christians, having heard Timothy's encouraging report about them, he reflects on his short stay with them. Here's what he writes;

*'We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition.'* - (1 Thessalonians 2:2 NIV)

I find what Paul says here so helpful when it comes to a pattern for evangelism.



God helps! What a comfort! God's work done in God's way will never lack His provision or power! This is His gospel after all!

So we dared! For some speaking about Jesus comes naturally. However, naturally doesn't always mean that it's easy. There are always butterflies. Speaking about Jesus will take courage. It always has. But church history is filled with people that God raised up and who took courageous decisions to speak for him. Our church wouldn't be here today if they hadn't!

To speak the truth! Paul never shirked telling the whole story. He spoke about both heaven and hell. He spoke about both God's love and God's justice. It was never a case of either/or. It was never a matter of cherry picking. He proclaimed the whole counsel of God for that's exactly what people need to hear to be saved! Of course this isn't something that he decided upon himself, this is exactly the loving example that Jesus set for any disciple who would take up their cross and follow after Him.

Despite what it cost us! Paul and his traveling companions were willing to take the hit. They counted up the cost and it was well worth it. And the pattern that they set was clearly carried on by those early Christians in Thessalonica. There always has been and always will be strong opposition. However, there is simply no greater delight than when God uses His people as the conduits through which He shines the light of His Gospel into the hearts of dark souls as we speak for Him.

I still loathe facing the fear of the unknown, especially when it comes to speaking for Jesus. However, I am heartened by the example that Paul sets. When it comes to telling people the good news about Jesus, it isn't a matter of truth or dare – with God's help, it's a case of truth and dare! Choose both!

### Life Explored

Life Explored continues each Monday evening in June at 7:30pm in Room 1, discussing the big questions of life.

Will you dare to invite a friend to come?

See Alistair Chalmers for more information.



## WHAT'S ON IN JUNE?

### Saturday 9 June – Spring Women's Bible Morning

Join us for our next Women's event at BEC on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of June from 9:30am to 1 pm. During the morning there will be two talks by Hazel Foster on the theme Committed to Christ: Growing in Spiritual Maturity, plus seminars on the themes Your Kingdom Come, Mental Health & Christianity and Caring for Missionary Families. If you'd like to come or get more info, please contact one of the Women's ministry team - Hazel, Kate, Margo, Simona or Terri.

### Saturday 23rd June – All-Age Scavenger Hunt and Supper

Come along and join in the fun of a scavenger hunt on Bruntsfield Links followed by Pizza in the church hall. Please meet at the church at 3pm. Perhaps you could invite family and friends to come along or enter as a small group. To help with our planning, please can you sign up and indicate if you're planning on staying for supper – <https://doodle.com/poll/hw89fnar8488b4en>.

Hope you can come along, and there will be a prize for the winning team. You can just come for supper if you prefer.

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## AND IN JULY...

### 2-6 July – Team Builders Holiday Club

Our holiday club runs every morning in the first week of the holidays. Team Builders has a sports team theme and focuses on some awesome stories from the Bible including Joseph, Moses, Esther, Jesus and Paul – each one giving children the opportunity to see what life is like on God's team, and inviting them to join His team for themselves. We still need volunteers. If you can help, please see Peter Ervine.



**TEAMBUILDERS**

## OUR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

**Baby & Toddler Group** – Wednesday 10am-noon (see Peter Ervine)

**Basics Bank** – Friday 10am-1pm (see Fiona Watson if you would like to be involved, or Ian Naismith if you can give food / money)

**Friday Funzone** – Friday 6-7pm (see Peter Ervine)

We are also responsible for the **Care Van** on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> (see Alastair Mackintosh if you would be interested in joining the rota).

## SMALL GROUPS AND PRAYER

Evening prayer: Wednesday 6 June at 7:45pm in the upstairs hall

Lunchtime prayer: Wednesday 20 June at 1pm in Room 1

Grove 92: Every Monday at 2pm

Small groups: Week of 10 June, various days and venues.

*Some small groups may continue to have activities over the summer.*

## CELEBRATION OF HOPE

Celebration of Hope, with Will Graham (grandson of Billy Graham) is at the Falkirk Stadium from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June. See [www.celebrationofhope.uk](http://www.celebrationofhope.uk) for details.



## PRAISE GATHERING

This year's Praise Gathering is in Perth Concert Hall on 16 June and Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on 24 June. See [www.praisegathering.org.uk](http://www.praisegathering.org.uk) for details.



## HEART OF THE MATTER SCHEDULE

3 June: Gary Cobb, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

10 June: Dr Pam Cairns, The Free to Live Trust

17 June: Anna Coleman, Carrubbers Christian Centre

24 June: Will Graham, Grandson of the late Billy Graham

*Black Diamond 107.8 FM: Sunday 9 am. repeat 8 am. following week. FM and online. Crystal 107.4 FM: Sunday 11 am. /Midnight and Tuesday 11 am. FM and online. Alive FM 107.3 FM: Sunday 10 am. FM and online. TD 1 106.5 FM: Sunday 8 am. FM and online. Internet stations Heartsong Live and Caleb: Various times*

## NEW MINISTRY TRAINEES

We're looking forward very much to welcoming our new Ministry Trainees, who will start serving at the church from September.

**Kat Andrews** is currently a member of Charlotte Chapel where her involvement has included working with young adults and women. Each year she is a leader at a Christian Adventure Holiday camp for teenagers. She currently works as Lead Inventory Officer at Gladstone's Land.



Kat says, "I'm really excited about the opportunity the ministry traineeship will give me to experience different areas of ministry whilst learning to teach the Bible better and growing in my personal relationship with God. I'm looking forward to getting involved in lots of different parts of the life of Bruntsfield and getting stuck into serving the church."



**Drew Kennedy** started studying at Edinburgh Theological Seminary in September 2017 and has been attending Bruntsfield since January. Drew's home church is Lennox Evangelical Church in Dumbarton, where he has been heavily involved in children's and youth work, including being leader of their holiday club, as well as leading services and preaching. He has had a variety of jobs, most recently at a debt management company.

Drew says "A lot of my training to this point has been classroom based, and my desire is that my traineeship at Bruntsfield will help me put this learning into practice in a local church setting where I can both use my previous experience and gain new experience in areas of church life that I am less familiar with.

I am excited to be part of Bruntsfield over the next few years as I see it as a church family that can provide me with a supportive and structured environment where I can learn from brothers and sisters in Christ who are more knowledgeable and experienced than myself."

As well as studying part-time, Kat and Drew will be serving in a variety of ministries at Bruntsfield, taking the lead on some and supporting others.

We expect Kat and Drew to get grants towards their costs, including from the Bonar Trust. Church members may also wish to help with their support. This can be done through Stewardship, which will claim Gift Aid on gifts given and pass them on to the Trainees. We will provide guidance on how to do this, including for those who give to our current Interns via the Church.

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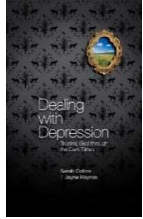
## MISSION UPDATE *by Sheila MacLeod*

**Michael G** in China had an opportunity to tell the Easter story to 200 students. He also spoke at an international gathering recently on the radical call of the Lord to 'give up all and follow him'. The training programme he is involved with had a visit from a Bangladeshi brother whose cultural background is that of Islam. He gave training on how to befriend and share with people of the same background and how to respond to questions people raise.

Remember Michael at this time as a large number of foreign workers have left the country and a handful have experienced interrogation. Pray for sensitivity and wisdom in a tense situation.

## THIS MONTH'S RECOMMENDATION by Alistair Chalmers

### Sarah Collins & Jayne Haynes, *Dealing with Depression*



We all know what it's like to feel down. Some of us even know what it feels like to live with depression, or, as it's sometimes called, 'the black dog'. Indeed, statistics show that 1 in 4 people per year in the UK will experience a mental health problem. As Christians, living our lives in this fallen world, we too know what it is like to struggle with depression.

*Dealing with Depression* is a short and helpful book that explains the symptoms, the emotions that people can experience and some of the practicalities surrounding depression. This is not a self-help book, but rather a short introduction to the topic designed to help both the person suffering with depression and those who want to care loved ones.

The authors offer both straightforward explanations and practical advice for those seeking to care for people who struggle with mental health. As a church we want to be as equipped and informed as possible to help people who struggle with depression. This book gives some good advice on how to 'walk with people', as well as suggesting things to say and things not to say. Depression can often make you feel as if you are alone and our desire as a church should be to support, care for and walk with our fellow brothers and sisters in Jesus.

Not only does this book give practical insights into depression but interwoven throughout are testimonies of people who have both experienced depression and cared for loved ones as they have lived with depression.

So if you have depression, if you have a friend or family member with depression or if you want to be able to care for people in a more informed way then pick up this book and have a read. As a church family seeking to care for one another, this short book is well worth investing in.

3 June 2018		
10am	Communion Service	Chairing: Tim
11am	Coffee Team: Bruce, Corrie & Jonathan Welcome Team: Andrew, Emma, Pete & Terri	
11.30am	All Age Service Leader: Fraser McLaren	Speaker: Graeme Shanks <b>Return to me!</b> Joel 2:1-17
Church Lunch – No evening service		
10 June 2018		
10am	Communion Service <i>Missionary Offering for Andrea Smith</i>	Chairing: Tim
11am	Coffee Team: Alice, Gill J & Sylvia Welcome Team: Bobby, Joanna, Charles & Neil	
11.30am	All Age Service Leader: Graeme Shanks	Speaker: Ian Naismith <b>Return to me!</b> Joel 2:18-32
6:30pm	Evening Service Leader: Garry Ferrier Welcome: Laurence & Sylvia	Speaker: Graeme Shanks <b>Sights Set on Jesus</b>   Thessalonians 1:1-10
17 June 2018		
10am	Communion Service	Chairing: Charlie
11am	Coffee Team: Andrew, Emma & Violet Welcome Team: Alastair, Hazel, Tim & Sylvia	
11.30am	All Age Service Leader: Paul Johnston	Speaker: Alistair Chalmers <b>Return to me!</b> Joel 3:1-21
6:30pm	Evening Service Leader: Jamie Wilson Welcome: Christy & Sabine	Speaker: Ian Naismith <b>Sights Set on Jesus</b>   Thessalonians 2:1-16
24 June 2018		
10am	Communion Service <i>Second bag offering for Heber &amp; Fiona Gallitto</i>	Chairing: Charlie
11am	Coffee Team: Pete, Terri & Zoe Welcome Team: Alice, David S, Sabine & Thane	
11.30am	All Age Service Leader: Alistair Chalmers	Speaker: Bruce Pass <b>Great is the Lord</b> Psalm 90
6:30pm	Evening Service Leader: Fiona Watson Welcome: Ian & Neil	Speaker: Tim Foster <b>Sights Set on Jesus</b>   Thessalonians 2:17-3:13

	Flowers	Crèche	Roots
3 June	Doreen	Zoe & Joanna	Esther, Becky & Anne
10 June	Nan M	Alex & Emma	Simona, Susan & Corrie
17 June	Audrey	Simona & Margaret	Robert, Bridget & Zoe
24 June	Margo	Hazel & Molly	Margo, Ali & Becky