

April 2019 Newsletter



THE PASTOR'S PEN *by Graeme Shanks*

7 Dangers Facing our Church (1) **"Holy not hollow"**

Everyone loves an Easter Egg. Big ones. Small ones. Dark chocolate. White chocolate. You name it, we'll eat it! I remember the first time I received an Easter Egg as a child. In my naivety I assumed the whole thing was made of chocolate. I envisaged myself sitting there for hours savouring every morsel. I was devastated to discover that it was hollow. Beyond the shell there was nothing there. In the book of Revelation, one reads the words of the risen Lord Jesus to the church in Ephesus. Indeed, it seems that the church in Ephesus had gone a bit 'Easter eggy'!

Ephesus was a tough place to be a Christian in the first century. The young church faced external pressures. They lived in a city where many around them worshipped the Roman Emperor. Many worshipped the goddess Artemis (whose temple was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world). In addition, they faced inward pressures. Church leaders were crooked and false teaching was rife. It is little wonder then that Paul urges Timothy, the young Pastor at the church, to stay the course for Christ. The young church desperately needed clarity, stability and bravery if it was to survive.



Fast forward 30 years to Revelation chapter 2, and it would appear that the young church in Ephesus had managed to achieve just that. The risen Lord Jesus commends them for their sacrificial deeds, sound doctrine and steadfast diligence. However, despite all these admirable attributes, he has this against them;

'You have forsaken the love you had at first.'

- (Revelation 2:4)

Despite their hard work, theological discernment and endurance they have abandoned their first love. They have settled for a theological knowing of him without a devotional knowing of him. They have developed a love for the church that bypasses the people of the church. There would appear to be little beyond the religious shell of their lives. It would be like a husband telling his wife that despite being married to her he has little interest in loving her. What a tragedy. The church in Ephesus is full of Christians who are holy yet hollow.

So what does Jesus say? Is it game over for them as a church? Well, despite a solemn warning that if they persist in their hollow ways he will remove their lampstand, in his great mercy, he shows them the way back. Wonderfully, Jesus is full of grace and truth.

Firstly, he calls them to **Remember**. He urges them to recall the love that they had for him the very first time they responded to the gospel message. Their love and joy in the Lord. Their commitment and service to his people.

Secondly, he calls them to **Repent**. He longs for them to turn around. He wants them to fall on their knees and confess their need for the grace of God to penetrate their callous hearts. He calls them to replace worldly ways of thinking with cross-shaped ways of thinking.

Thirdly, he calls them to **Rejoice**. If they humble themselves and return to him he will grant them the right to eat from the tree of life. Jesus promises access to the tree in the Garden of Eden that symbolised loving communion between God and man.

If you feel holy yet hollow then take heart from the words of Jesus to his people. There is a way back. Why not meditate on and pray the words made famous by Charles Wesley all those years ago;

‘Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art,
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.’

OUR MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES

- Evening prayer** - Wednesday 10 April at 7:45pm (upstairs hall)
- Lunchtime prayer** - Wednesday 24 April at 1pm (Room 1)
- Small groups** - Weeks of 14 and 28 April
- Baby & Toddler** - Wednesdays 10am-noon (except 10 & 17 April)
- Grove 92** - Wednesdays at 12 noon (except 10 & 17 April)
- Basics Bank** - Fridays 10am-1pm
- Friday Funzone** - Fridays at 6pm (except 12 & 19 April)
- Care Van** - Wednesday 17 April

PLUGGING IN

If you see Bruntsfield as your church, we encourage you to fill in a Personal Details Form. This will give us your details, and mean you can join groups in the church and receive weekly email updates. The form is available in the foyer, or at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XD6XRXX>.

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL?

coffee@bruntsfield – Friday 12 April

A week earlier than usual. There will be optional Easter crafts available, as well as good food & fellowship and a short epilogue.

Good Friday Service – Friday 19 April at 7pm

A reflective service including Communion.

Easter Brunch – Saturday 20 April

A fun time for all the family with a short message from Alistair Chalmers. See page 8 for more.

Easter Sunday Celebration – Sunday 21 April at 11:30am

We hope a good number of visitors will join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus together.

Resurrection – Sunday 21 April at 7:30pm in the Usher Hall

A city-wide Easter celebration with the band, orchestra and choir of Origin Scotland. No charge, but an offering during the service. Tickets required – available at www.originscotland.org or see Fraser.

Baptismal Service – Sunday 28 April at 11:30am

Sunday Evenings @ Costa – from 28 April to 19 May 6-7pm

Informal evenings over coffee, with a short talk on Encounters with Jesus and an opportunity to ask questions.

Prayer for our adult children & grandchildren – Sunday 28 April at 7:30pm

There will be a prayer supper for parents and grandparents of adult children after the evening service on 28th April at Fraser & Lynn's house. No matter if your children/grandchildren are currently attending church or what their particular circumstances are, we will pray together for God's hand on their lives and that they will either come to faith, be restored, or remain in Him. Please let Fraser or Lynn know if you want more information or plan to attend.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Launch event for Christy Ringrose's new album, Dancing Without Space – 6pm, upstairs hall



All Age Church BBQ



Vision Evening



Dementia workshop – see page 11



Church lunch



Praise Gathering in Perth Concert Hall, then in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on 22 and 23 June



Sing! Scotland day conference at Charlotte Chapel and evening concert in the Usher Hall



BEC Holiday Club starts – continuing until Friday 19th



BEC church day away at Musselburgh Baptist Church

MISSION UPDATE *by Sheila MacLeod*



Richard & Elaine Leakey. Team Leaders for YWAM in Switzerland. Richard spent the autumn leading another Discipleship Training School at their HQ. After a period when the work was low on staff and students, he was encouraged when 8 of the staff and students at the school decided they wanted to

continue for at least another two years. They feel they have a long term call to missions and see this as a stepping stone to launch out long term.

In March the team ran a 3 week seminar for Organic Agriculture Trainers (OATS). The goal is to equip those who would like to train others in sustainable agriculture. This month, Richard will spend the first week in Ivory Coast undertaking another “Farming God’s Way” programme.

Back home, there will be an Easter evangelism event and a staff retreat. They have been approached by a former Governor of Hawaii (sometimes based in Geneva) to host the first Geneva Institute for Leadership and Public Policy Fellowship in June. They are hoping for 25 students from across the world who are called into the sphere of Government. Pray for Richard & Elaine in the demands on their time and energies and that they will be a blessing to all they come in contact with through their varied ministries.

Derek Malcolm’s latest visit to Turkey was in February. He was very grateful to see that the publishing ministry continues and the resources they produce are being used by believers. Some ex-patriate workers have been deported or denied entry. Families have been separated. Pray for those affected by the current tense situation that they will have wisdom and guidance in all the decisions they have to make.

If you would like to give to support the victims of **Cyclone Idai** in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, we suggest you might like to donate via Tearfund, a Christian charity which is part of the Disasters Emergency Committee. You can donate at

https://www.tearfund.org/en-SC/latest/cyclone_idai_appeal/

PRAYER POINTS FOR HEBER & FIONA GALLITTO



It was a great encouragement to have Heber and Fiona with us during their two-month stay in Edinburgh. This is a reminder of what they've particularly asked us to pray for now they're back in Parana, Argentina:

Health: Heber has to undergo some medical tests, and Fiona continues with her treatment for the atrhrosis.

Holiness: That they will walk close with the Lord and devil will not be able to get into their lives.

Family: Ivan (24), Martin (23), Melissa (21) and Josias (their son in law). Pray for their projects, and for spiritual growth

Wisdom: There are many challenges ahead:

- Family Camp (in April) for their church
- Estacion Parera, their new outreach, and Ricardo & Claudia Miller who have trusted the Lord there. They are looking for spiritual guidance, helping them in first steps.
- C.R.E.C.E.R. en Mission. On 1st May there is a special event for churches in Entre Rios (the region where they work). And in August the three associated churches in Paraná will be joined by other churches from the region for an intensive mission in the town.

When we were above the clouds, our vision is different. We need to travel in this way in our lives. Near Him.

Please also pray for **Jonathan and Corrie Thomson** who are in Musoma, Tanzania until 21 April with a group of young people. They'll be working with churches in nearby villages doing a mixture of building work, teaching, health education and children's work.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP - *Gill Mackintosh*

Easter : There are a couple of activities planned over Easter weekend and the team are looking for a few volunteers to help out:

Friday 19 April: Good Friday Service 7pm.

We're looking for people to help serve tea, coffee and refreshments after the service.

Saturday 20 April : Easter Brunch- 10am to 1pm.

Please join us for brunch and activities for all ages; Easter Egg hunt, crafts, and a short Easter message from our Assistant Pastor, Alistair Chalmers. Hot food will be served from 10am until 11.30am, tea, coffee and pastries will be available until 12.30pm.

We're looking for help serving tea and coffee and with dishes and clear up. If you can help with any of these tasks, please sign up to the doodle poll: <https://doodle.com/poll/wfet44sb8adg3fss>

'Save the Date'

Saturday 18 May 5pm: All Age Church BBQ . Further details will follow in due course.

Sunday 9 June : All Age Church lunch.

BUILDING UPDATE - *David Wright*

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed towards the reflooring of the upstairs hall, both financially and in helping us to consider the options. We have taken all comments into account and are close to agreeing a solution which we believe will be attractive, hard-wearing, easy to maintain and low-noise.

Rather than rush into doing it over Easter, we have decided to delay until the next period when hall usage is light, which will be in the summer holidays. This will also give us the opportunity to do some painting in the hall, which is clearly better undertaken before the new flooring is in place.

BASICS BANK AND CARE VAN

Our church reaches out to those who are in very difficult circumstances through Basics Bank and the Care Van.



Basics Bank runs every Friday from 10am to 1pm in the upstairs hall, in partnership with Edinburgh City Mission. It's designed to provide essential supplies to those going through short-term crises, for example because they are waiting for benefits to start. Clients typically come for up to 6 weeks, but some need help for a longer time and several other people come regularly for coffee and a chat. There are opportunities to share the Gospel, and some have come to church services and other activities.

In the past year Basics Bank has given out almost 9 tonnes of food and toiletries, including over a tonne in March alone. On average it helps feed 35 people a month, most for several weeks, and in March that rose to 44.

Donations of both food and money are needed. Food can be left in the crate in the foyer, where there is also a list of what's needed. Monetary gifts can be put in the box next to the crate or handed to Ian Naismith. New volunteers are always welcome.

For more information, please speak to Fiona Watson.



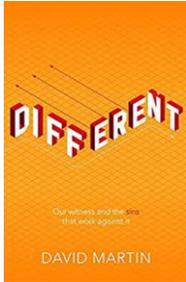
Care Van is a joint venture of Edinburgh City Mission and Bethany Christian Trust, in partnership with churches across the city. It is on every evening and many lunchtimes, providing food and clothing to the homeless. BEC is responsible for one evening a month, normally the third Wednesday of the month on Waverley Bridge from 9pm.

Donations of warm clothing and blankets are always appreciated. If you would like to hand in items for use on the Care Van then donations can be left in the marked box in the foyer for collection (by 14 April for this month). New volunteers are also welcome.

For more information, please speak to Alastair Mackintosh.

THIS MONTH'S RECOMMENDATION *Alistair Chalmers*

Different by David Martin



Different is a great and short book that challenges and encourages Christians to think through our attitudes, our lives and how distinct we are for the cause of sharing the gospel. David identifies four sins that are rife in the global church and that damage the church's witness for Jesus; materialism, careerism, sentimentalism and nationalism.

I found this book very challenging; it will confront your sinfulness whilst pointing you to the glorious truths of the good news of Jesus. One of the great things about this book is how serious Martin takes the role and identity of the local church. Here is one of the best quotes in the book

"The church is not simply a social club that meets the interests of a select few in any particular community. Neither is the church the property of any small group of people with membership cards and voting rights. It is not an alternative source of entertainment, a platform for a political party of person, or a hobby for a few enthusiasts and a take-it-or-leave-it option for your average Christian. The church is the clearest sign to the world that Jesus has indeed been raised from the dead and that all who truly trust in him are destined for glory.... If your relationship with your church and with the people in your church has no claim on you, your resources and your time, then something is wrong somewhere."

As Christians our greatest desire should be to live for and submit to God, we are called to be different. To do this we need to know and love Jesus and we need to actively be living examples of what it means to be a follower of Jesus to the watching world.

BAPTISM SERVICE

We're planning a Baptism Service on Sunday 28 April. Please see Graeme or Alistair if you would like to consider being baptised at that service.

WORKSHOP ON DEMENTIA AWARENESS IN THE CHURCH

The Pastoral Care Team is holding an interactive workshop on dementia on Saturday 8 June 2019 9am – 1pm in the upstairs hall. Everyone is welcome. Faith in Older People (www.faithinolderpeople.org.uk) will be facilitating the workshop, with Professor Mary Marshall and Maureen O’Neill (Director of Faith in Older People)

The programme includes:

- A short film by someone with dementia.
- A quiz in small groups followed by discussion
- Key facts and figures about dementia
- Discussion of key issues chosen by participants, including case studies

Lunch will be provided afterwards at a cost of £5, payable on the day.

Registration: Please email Ian Naismith (manager@bruntsfield.org.uk).

Telephone Ruth Aird on 07906 632499 for further information.

HEART OF THE MATTER SCHEDULE

7 April: Keith Noble, Kan Do Training & Development

14 April: Prof. John Wyatt, Professor of Ethics & Perinatology,
University of London

21 April: Easter Special

28 April: The Howgate Trio – 3 members from Howgate Church, Midlothian

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 Heartsona Live and Caleb: Various times

	The Field	The Harbour	The Track	Youth
7 April	Peter B & Fiona	Peter E	Lynn	Kat & Naomi
14 April	Bridget & Ian	Sheeba	Drew	Alistair & Naomi
21 April	Bridget & Ian	Easter Service – stay in		
28 April	Arlene & Robert	Peter E	Elizabeth	Baptism – stay in

7 April 2019		
10am	Communion Service	Opening: Charles
11am	Coffee Team: Before – Gill, Karen & Lynn After – David S Welcome Team: Rachel, Sabine, Neil & Thane	
11.30am	All Age Service & communion Leader: Graeme Shanks	Speaker: Alistair Chalmers Behold My Servant: Isaiah 50:4-11
6:30pm	Evening Service Leader: Jamie Wilson Welcome: Christy & Laurence; Coffee: Pete & Terri	Speaker: Drew Kennedy A king after God's own heart I Samuel 26
14 April 2019		
10am	Communion <i>Missionary Offering for Derek & Heidi Malcolm</i>	Opening: Charles
11am	Coffee Team: Before – Alice, Andrew & Violet After – Zoë Welcome Team: Pete, Terri, Bobby & Joanna	
11.30am	All Age Service Leader: Paul Johnston	Speaker: Graeme Shanks Behold My Servant: Isaiah 52:13-53:12
6:30pm	Evening Service Leader: Jamie Wilson Welcome: Christy & Laurence; Coffee: Bridget	Speaker: Neil McAllister A king after God's own heart I Samuel 27:1-28:2
21 April 2019		
10am	Communion Service	Opening: Ian W
11am	Coffee Team: Before – Alison, Jean & Michelle After – Stephanie Welcome Team: Alice, Alistair, Ian & Sylvia	
11.30am	All Age Service Leader: Alistair Chalmers	Speaker: Graeme Shanks Behold My Servant: Matthew 28
Resurrection celebration at Usher Hall – no evening service		
28 April 2019		
10am	Communion Service <i>Second bag offering for Heber & Fiona Gallitto</i>	Opening: Ian W
11am	Coffee Team: Before – Alasdair, Corrie & Jonathan After – Lynn Welcome Team: Christy, Charles, Emma & Andrew	
11.30am	All Age Service and Baptisms Leader: Fraser McLaren	Speaker: Graeme Shanks <i>No set subject</i>
6:00pm	Sunday evening at Costa Speaker: Dave Hampton "When Jesus met the Sceptic"	

	Flowers	Crèche	The Roots
7 April	Audrey	Margaret & Esther	Michelle & Becky
14 April	Alison	Molly & Simona	Margo & Alta
21 April	Bridget	Luca & Lyndsey	Ali & Sarah
28 April	Doreen	Laura & Becky	Michelle & Alex