

November 2018 Newsletter



THE PASTOR'S PEN *by Graeme Shanks*

Are you persuaded of the promises?

As a congregation, over the past few weeks we've had the bitter-sweet experience of saying goodbye to two dear sisters, Elma and Margot, who have both gone to be with the Lord. Personally, I have found it be an enormous privilege to be involved in the thanksgiving services that have taken place to mark the lives of these two incredible women of faith.

As I've reflected on the lives of both Elma and Margot, I've been reminded of Paul's description of Abraham that one finds in Romans chapter 4. Here Paul points to Abraham, not simply as proof that one is saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, but also as an example of what a true biblical life of faith looks like in action. Paul, in the context of his wife Sarah giving birth to the promised Isaac in her old age, says of Abraham:

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.
(Romans 4:20-21)

According to Paul, Abraham shows us that true biblical faith is not about being perfect, it's about being fully persuaded that God will do what he says he will do. This was certainly true of Elma and Margot as they finished their earthly races, both fully persuaded of the glory that was ahead of them in Christ.



So as we reflect on their legacies of faith, let me ask you two questions;

Firstly, do you know the promises of God?

Quite simply, we can't trust a God that we don't know. So where do we find his promises? In his word. Are you basing your life upon every word that proceeds from the mouth of God? Are you allowing his revealed truth to shape your outlook on life? It's striking that Abraham was not just familiar with the promises of God, but in actual fact, he was strengthened by believing them. God's promises became a source of soul nourishment as he lived his life. Are you allowing the Spirit of God to nourish your soul through the word of God?

Secondly, are you persuaded that God is good for his word?

To be persuaded of something is to be fully convinced of its truth. Abraham glorified God because he was fully assured that God could and would do the humanly impossible. There is almost an audacity to our faith that we are called to have in Christ. That God will do for us that which he has promised and that which we could never do for ourselves. Truly grace has brought us safe thus far and grace will lead us home.

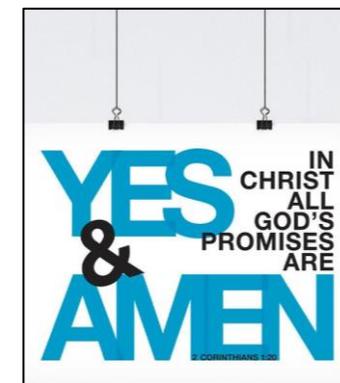
Do you know the promises of God? are you persuaded that God is good for his word? It would appear that our dear sisters, like Abraham before them, would have uttered a hearty 'amen' to both questions.

As the old hymn says;

*Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let his praises ring,
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Saviour;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.*

So, are you persuaded of the promises?



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CHURCH DAY AWAY – 27 OCTOBER

Our day away with Wayne Sutton was at Musselburgh Baptist Church.



WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER?

Evangelism Training – 10th November 9:30am – 12:30pm

On Saturday the 10th of November we will gather together, look at what the Bible says about evangelism, listen to seminars on how to evangelise and encourage each other in our work for God's Kingdom. Please see Christy on Sunday 4th if you plan to come.

Missionary Report – 10th November at 7pm

Sergey was saved after receiving a Bible passed onto his ship during a short visit to Peterhead. He became a missionary in his hometown of Kropotkin, Russia and also in Abkhazia and Moldova. Sergei will be updating us on his work. He's always encouraging and refreshing.

Coffee@Bruntsfield – Friday 16th November at 2pm

This month we'll be getting crafty, as well as enjoying coffee, fellowship and a short epilogue.

International Evening – Saturday 17th November at 7pm

Please come along and sample some lovely food representative of the different nationalities present within our church. There will also be an international quiz and prayer points that you can take away. If you're planning on coming, please could you indicate on the doodle poll at <https://doodle.com/poll/z2zdka66a9r6sp63> or let Gill know so that we have an idea of numbers for catering purposes.

AND IN DECEMBER...

1 December – Christmas Gingerbread House event for ladies

9 December – Church Christmas Lunch

16 December – Nativity Service & Community Carol Service

24 December – Watchnight Carol Service

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP EVENTS by Gill Mackintosh

We wanted to let you know about a few events coming up over the next few months (as well as the International Evening on 17 November – see page 3) and hope you can join us. As there are a number of events coming up this is also a request for volunteers so that we can spread the load at this busy time.

Sunday 9th Dec: Christmas lunch.

Names and payment are now being taken for our Christmas lunch after the all-age service on the 9th Dec. For those who haven't been before this is a traditional Christmas meal provided by MacKenzies Catering in the upstairs hall. The afternoon includes fun and fellowship for all ages.

Places can be booked before the all-age services throughout November but please note that due to the capacity of the hall places will be limited and given on a first come first served basis only once payment has been received. Final date for sign up will be Sunday 2nd Dec to confirm numbers with the caterer. Prices are £11 per person, Students £5, Under 16s free.

We don't want anyone to miss out on lunch, so if you feel that you aren't in a position to pay the full amount then a donation towards the cost of the meal will be fine. We would also encourage people to donate towards the cost of a meal for someone else.

We will need help with setting tables, serving, clearing up, dishes and providing desserts.

Sunday 17th Dec: Community Carol Service 7pm.

We need help with serving tea/coffee and mince pies after the service.

Saturday 26th Jan: Scottish night 6pm-9pm.

Tickets are now on sale : £2 per adult, children go free. Please come along for an evening of fun and fellowship for all ages; ceilidh dancing, games for the children, a Scottish themed supper and perhaps the odd poem or two! Again, due to capacity, places will be limited. A request for helpers will be sent out later.

There is a sign up desk within the main church before the all-age service for both the Christmas lunch and the Scottish night. Please could you indicate on the Doodle poll which activities you would be able to help with:

<https://doodle.com/poll/z2zdka66a9r6sp63>. Many thanks.

MARGOT ROSS

We were saddened by the death of Margot Ross on 17 October. Margot worshipped at the Old Schoolhouse for many years, and joined us with others a few years ago. Margot's funeral on 29 October was a fitting tribute to a lady of outstanding kindness and hospitality who, with her late husband Graham, was a great blessing to many. She was also a much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Please continue to pray for her family.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Our next church membership class is planned for Sunday 18 November at 5:30pm in Room 3. If you've been coming to Bruntsfield for some time and see it as your spiritual home, membership could be the right next step for you. The class is a chance to find out more without any obligation. Please speak to Graeme if you're interested.

CHURCH BOOKSHOP

Our online bookshop, in partnership with 10ofThose, can be reached from our website – go to www.bruntsfield.org.uk, scroll to the bottom of the screen and click on '10 of those bookshop'.

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ROOM NEEDED

Stephanie Ward has been a student at BEC for a couple of years, and is currently on a semester exchange in India. She's returning to Edinburgh in January, and needs a room until June (possibly longer). She'd be very happy to do weekly cleaning, shopping, gardening, possibly cooking or whatever else is needed where she was staying, possibly for an older individual or couple. If you'd be interested, please see Ian Naismith or email Stephanie direct at stephanie.roxanne.ward@gmail.com.



THIS MONTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Love came down at Christmas by Sinclair Ferguson

Alistair Chalmers



As we approach Christmas we can be surrounded by little statues of Santa Claus, see piles of presents decorating our shop windows, see banquets put on in family home and we hear songs about love. For many people Christmas is a romantic time of the year. It's a time for friends and family and a time to enjoy each other's company, but why do we associate Christmas with love?

Sinclair Ferguson has written a tremendous book of short daily readings for Advent. He walks through the 'chapter of love' 1 Corinthians 13 and explains how

true, deep meaningful and sacrificial love is seen in the Son of God, Jesus Christ, being born in a manger. Each day you'll find a verse a short explanation and reading on that verse and a few questions to get you thinking about the applications of it and then a prayer.

This book offers the great opportunity to spend some time reflecting on what the real reason is behind Christmas and it will give you the opportunity to think through the vast love of God that is seen in Jesus. I highly recommend that you purchase this book from 10ofThose and enjoy your morning coffee or tea whilst being blown away by the love of God. This might also give you ideas of how to speak about Jesus this Christmas as people are already thinking about love and what that is. This year let's look to Jesus and point others to Him.

HEART OF THE MATTER SCHEDULE

- 4 November: Fraser Bathgate, student – Edinburgh University
- 11 November: Remembrance Day, Helen Beat - Dundee
- 18 November: Chris Wooliscroft, Bournemouth
- 25 November: Keith Getty and friends, Nashville

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

OUR MINISTRY TRAINEES...TWO MONTHS IN

It has been a bit of a whirlwind since me and Kat started our training here at BEC on the 2nd of September. Although that is a relatively short time it has been jam-packed with plenty of excellent teaching and learning. Through the many opportunities I've been given to get involved in the ministries BEC runs I can see the immense benefit the next 2 years is going to have: to my own personal faith as a believer, as I learn more and learn to communicate what I learn with others better, and as a member of this congregation, as I seek to serve the Lord here and wherever the Lord will lead me after my time here is finished. The training here at BEC has also added an extra practical dimension to my training at Edinburgh Theological Seminary and is giving me more opportunity to think through what I'm learning there and applying it to the ordinary life of a congregation and its members.

Join me in praising God that I have been given this opportunity at BEC. Pray for me that I'll be diligent in my preparation, both for my studies at ETS and in my various responsibilities here at BEC.

Drew Kennedy

I can't quite believe I've been at Bruntfield two months now! The time has flown by and everyone's made me feel so welcome that I feel like I've been here a lot longer. I'm really enjoying getting to know people and getting to grips with the different things I'm doing. Studying at Cornhill alongside the practical aspects of serving the church is great because it's giving me the opportunity to grow in my understanding of the Bible whilst putting what I'm learning into practice. I'm particularly enjoying being able to be involved in a range of different things and being challenged to grow and build on my experience.

I really appreciate your continuing prayers, particularly that I would be able to make the most of all the opportunities I am given and continue to get to know everyone at Bruntfield.

Kat Andrews

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The smooth running of our church, particularly on Sundays, depends on a wide range of volunteers. We'll soon be producing rotas for the next three months, and you can volunteer for these using the form in the church foyer or online at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/T6RVYQD. Here's what's involved in some of our activities, and how to volunteer.

Opportunity	What's involved	How to volunteer
Flowers	Prepare a vase of flowers at the front of the church before 10am on Sunday.	Rota form
All Age Welcome	Welcome people to the church as part of a team of 4 between 11:00 and 11:40am.	Rota form
Tea & Coffee	Serve tea & coffee before the All Age Service as part of a team of 3, arriving by around 10:45am, and leave tea & coffee out after the service on a self-service basis.	Rota form
Crèche/Roots	Look after babies or toddlers during the All Age Service, normally caring for a small number of children with one other volunteer. Set up and clear away toys.	Rota form. You'll also need to join the PVG scheme*. See Becky Macdonald if interested.
Field/Harbour/Track	Take a group of children (age about 3-11) during the All Age Service, as a teacher or helper. You can choose which age group you work with.	Rota form. You'll also need to join the PVG scheme*. See Peter Ervine if interested.
Youth Work	Take a group of young people (age about 11-17) during the All Age Service and/or activities outside Sunday.	See Alistair Chalmers. You'll need to join the PVG scheme*.
Young People's Lunch	Prepare lunch for 20-30 students and other young people in the upstairs hall. A simple meal is great, and the church can reimburse your costs. You may also prefer to do it as part of a small team, which we can arrange.	Rota form, or speak to Gill Mackintosh for more info. You'll need a food hygiene certificate. We can provide an online course at no cost to you.
Church Lunches	We always need volunteers, including for setting tables, serving, clearing up, washing dishes and providing puddings/baking.	There's a Doodle poll each time. If you want to help with preparing lunches, please speak to Gill.
Evening Welcome	Welcome people to the church as part of a team of 2 between 6:10 and 6:40pm.	Rota form
Baby & Toddler Group	Group runs Wednesday 10am-12 noon. Help set up and clear away. Interact with parents/carers and with children.	See Peter Ervine
Friday Funzone	Group runs Friday 6-7pm. Interact with children and help with games/crafts/stories as required, or register children as they arrive and talk with parents picking them up.	See Peter Ervine. You'll need to join the PVG scheme*.
Basics Bank	Runs Friday 10am-1pm. Interact with clients and/or help pack bags.	See Fiona Watson
Care Van	Third Wednesday of the month, 9pm, Waverley Bridge. Help distribute soup & food and interact with clients. There's a rota, so you're not on every month.	See Alastair Mackintosh

* PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) involves completing a form and providing evidence of identity. We provide the form and guide you through the process.

OUR MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES

- Evening prayer** - Wednesday 7th November at 7:45pm
- Lunchtime prayer** - Wednesday 21st November at 1pm
- Small groups** - Weeks of 11th and 25th November
- Baby & Toddler** - Wednesdays 10am-noon
- Grove 92** - Wednesdays at 12 noon
- Basics Bank** - Fridays 10am-1pm
- Friday Funzone** - Fridays at 6pm
- Care Van** - Wednesday 21st November at 9pm

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/XD6XRX>.

GIVING TO BEC

Please consider giving regularly to the church. For details of how to do this, go to <http://www.bruntsfield.org.uk/about/giving> or pick up a card from your pew. There's also a blue box for gifts in the foyer.

SINGERS NEEDED

Keith and Krystin Getty will be performing at the Usher Hall on Thursday 20th June 2019. They're aiming to put together a choir of 300 for the concert. If you're interested, you can find a link at www.grantonchurch.org.uk/would-you-like-to-sing-on-stage-with-keith-kristyn-getty.

Sing!

4 November 2018		
10am	Communion Service	Chairing: Ian
11am	Coffee Team: Anne, Lynn & Sylvia Welcome Team: Andrew, Pete, Terri & Emma	
11.30am	All Age Service & communion Leader: Ian Naismith	Speaker: Graeme Shanks Rooted in Christ Colossians 1:24-2:5
6:30pm	Evening Service Leader: Drew Kennedy Welcome: Christy & Ian	Speaker: Graeme Shanks The search for a King Samuel 15:1-35
11 November 2018		
10am	Communion Service	Chairing: Ian <i>Missionary Offering for Ferrywell Youth Project</i>
11am	Coffee Team: Alice, Gill & Violet Welcome Team: Alastair, Ian, Sylvia & Christy	
11.30am	All Age Service Leader: Fraser McLaren	Speaker: Graeme Shanks Rooted in Christ Colossians 2:6-15
6:30pm	Evening Service Leader: Fiona Watson Welcome: Sabine & Neil	Speaker: Alistair Chalmers The Distinct Disciple - Perspective in a world that lives for the moment
18 November 2018		
10am	Communion Service	Chairing: Michael
11am	Coffee Team: Andrew, Emma & Jonathan Welcome Team: Thane, Neil, Alex & Sabine	
11.30am	All Age Service Leader: Alistair Chalmers	Speaker: Ian Naismith Rooted in Christ Colossians 2:16-23
6:30pm	Evening Service Leader: Garry Ferrier Welcome: Alice & Ian	Speaker: Drew Kennedy The Distinct Disciple - Service in a world that looks after Number One
25 November 2018		
10am	Communion Service	Chairing: Michael <i>Second bag offering for Heber & Fiona Gallitto</i>
11am	Coffee Team: Pete, Terri & Zoe Welcome Team: Charles, Bobby, Joanna & Alice	
11.30am	All Age Service Leader: Graeme Shanks	Speaker: David Knowles No set subject
6:30pm	Evening Service Leader: Jamie Wilson Welcome: Laurence & Sylvia	Speaker: Graeme Shanks The Distinct Disciple - Holiness in a world where anything goes

	Flowers	Crèche	Roots	Lunch
4 November	Margo	Laura & Volunteer	Ali & Peter B	Alice & Margo
11 November	Audrey	Margaret & Volunteer	Anne & Zoe	Talk
18 November	Bridget	Corrie & Esther	Margo & Becky	Elizabeth & Paul
25 November	Lilias	Volunteers	Bridget & Alex	Talk