


THE LINK



Glorifying
God as we:

Listen
to His Word

Pray
to Seek
His Will

Love
His People

Serve
His Kingdom

LISTEN, PRAY, LOVE, SERVE

Jim Turrent **LEAD PASTOR**



It is a pleasure to introduce the latest edition of *The Link*!

What you will find in these pages is a flavour of church life in Central and aspects of mission, home and abroad. Our sincere thanks to all the contributors and to those who have produced this helpful publication.

Paul states that the church is being “*built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit*” **EPHESIANS 2.**

This implies a work in progress! Given this reality, I want to flag up our Church Conference on 28 October when we will be revisiting our church aims of Listen, Pray, Love, Serve, to ask how we may further glorify God in what we are together as a church.

Why not click the ‘About us’ section on our website where our aims are explained – and begin to pray and prep!

Yours in Him,

Jim

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EDITOR'S Notes

We are delighted to present to you this latest issue of our church magazine *The Link* and hope that you will enjoy reading it. You will see that there is much to be encouraged by and thankful to God for as you read updates on several of our church ministries. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue.

If you would like to give us some feedback or have ideas for future issues, please do contact the magazine team by emailing office@centraldundee.com. We would love to hear from you!

Every edition of *The Link* is available as pdf format and can be downloaded from centraldundee.com/resources or click on the link on the Home page.

The Link has been compiled by our magazine team and designed by Ken Drysdale.

The Link Magazine Team: Katherine Belford, Elizabeth Kerr, Lindsey McCowan, Allison McMahon, Jane Scott, Tegwen Wallace and Kathryn Wright.



CHURCH conferences have proved to be significant times for sharing vision, prayer and planning over the years. Our principle is that we don't make any formal decisions on the day but seek to discern God's will and then come back at a church meeting to formalise any decisions. If you consider Central Baptist to be your spiritual home, then we warmly invite you to this event.

This year we plan to revisit our aims: **Listen, Pray, Love, Serve**, and to ask how well we are doing, and explore how we can engage with those aims across the breadth of ministries in Central. We don't want our aims to become ideas that we look at on a Sunday but principles that we embody more and more as a church.

To help us in this process we will be led by our elders and staff team in four brief sessions covering the aims. This will be followed by a Plenary Session where we will be looking for your prayerful input. We anticipate that this will be a key time and allow for wider listening and input from the church family. We will begin at 9 am and close at around 1 pm, when we hope that you will stay on and enjoy some time together and the packed lunches that you have brought!

Take some time to read the explanation of our aims on our website centraldundee.com/about-us and begin to pray about what you will add to the day.

The scriptures make it clear that God's purpose in making Christ known is to be through the church. By this, we don't just mean a mass of people around the globe, but well-ordered and healthily functioning local bodies of believers. This is why our theme is so vital. We know that we are not the finished article! But we want to be the best we can be for the glory of God and the blessing of our city. Be part of it!

"His (God's) intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord."

EPHESIANS 2

Explorers Holiday Club update

Colin Watson CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COORDINATOR

“I can’t get you out of my head” is a line from a Kylie Minogue song; the sentiment was also applicable to our theme song from the Epic Explorers Holiday Club! I think we all heard it in our sleep!

Hopefully, the same can be said for the children attending a week that took them through Mark’s Gospel using song, Bible teaching, games, crafts, and our memory verse to explore the life of Jesus, discovering who He is, why He came and what it means to follow Him.

We had 30 children on ‘the books’ with just over 20 attending each day. They were mainly from Central families, supplemented by some kids from other



churches, and I’m glad to report some children from no church background at all – some of our children would appear to have the gift of evangelism! One Christian family who had only moved to Dundee 2 weeks prior popped into the church on the Thursday, brought their wee one on the Friday, and have

now decided to worship with us! Such an encouragement.

A few weeks beforehand we had some training sessions for the team, and in the week leading up to 7 August we had some preparation time (e.g. decorating the Link Hall, creating a large memory verse mural and other tasks regarding resources). A big thank you to all who contributed.

Our team of volunteers consisted of some very experienced ‘old hands’, some new to children’s ministry and some of our teens. It was particularly pleasing to see some of our YF getting involved in the preparation and during the actual ▶



week of Epic Explorers – an answer to prayer as we encourage them to get involved in serving the church family.

For me, there are three strands to a successful holiday club:

- The first is obvious – we encourage and support our ‘own’ children and their families; sharing the Gospel in an age-appropriate way and also as outreach, giving them an opportunity to invite family and friends to hear His ‘Good News’.
- The holiday club has a part in developing a ‘culture of inclusion’ where it is the ‘norm’ that our young people are visible in many aspects of church life. Serving alongside their ‘brothers and sisters’ enriches the lives of young and older! Seeing Christlikeness modelled, engaging in Christian conversation with the added benefit of helping others can greatly nourish the spiritual lives of our young people.
- Any area of service can help those who need a boost, building up, care and support (adult or youngster) as they too work alongside their brothers and sisters in a ‘safe’ environment where hopefully the ‘fragrance of Jesus’ is present.



It is my belief that all that is outlined above was achieved. We give thanks to God for His hand of blessing on the holiday club, praying that we will see our children following Jesus as they get to know Him, submit to Him and serve Him. ■

Youth Ministry

Michael and Abby Adamson update

YOUTH Ministry has been on a break over the summer holidays. Many of the youth have enjoyed being away at Scripture Union and Teen Ranch camps during this time. I'm sure the leaders have also enjoyed a few weeks off to recharge the batteries. This has been a good time to reflect on the year gone by. There is much to be thankful to God for and to pray for.



welcomed newcomers over the past year, of which there have been quite a few.

- This is perhaps the hardest outcome to quantify, but also the most important. We have sensed a growing genuineness of faith in Jesus. There has been a greater understanding of key issues like sin and salvation. Youth are giving answers that go beyond the basic "Sunday School" answers, and beginning to ask questions of the texts they are reading. We pray that our youth go beyond mere head knowledge, and that the Holy Spirit would apply what they learn to their hearts.
- We welcome a number of new faces this year. There are several P7s moving up to S1 who will join us for the first time, as well as others who have just joined the church. We pray that they also would feel at home in youth ministry and the wider church family, and that they would grow in their knowledge of, and love for, Jesus. ■

- We have had good attendance at most events so far, with numbers ranging from mid-teens to mid-twenties. This faithful week to week attendance is an answer to prayer. Thanks to the youth and their parents for prioritising regular attendance at church and youth ministry.
- We began last year with almost a clean slate after COVID, with mostly new leaders and youth. It has been great to see how quickly the group has gelled during this past year. Friendships are clearly growing between the youth, as are relationships between youth and leaders. Such relationships are key to the understanding of church being a family. A testament to this has been how the group have

Young Adults' Ministry update

Alwis Rajendran PASTOR IN TRAINING



LAST year, the 'Young Adults Ministry' was led by Andy Holt (former Pastor-in-Training). His gift of unpacking and applying the bible was a blessing as we studied 1 Corinthians at 4 pm on Sundays. Sundays at CBC are busy, yet the 4 pm meetings had committed regulars who hunger for God's Word and fellowship. We addressed some sensitive and complex issues from a biblical standpoint, and the team of leaders for the discussion groups who enabled open discussion in small group settings. The hard-working hospitality team provided fantastic meals throughout the year. Gary also made our lives much easier by setting up the tables and chairs before we arrived.

This year, we aim to continue the same format and have the Young Adult Bible Studies on Sundays. I will head up the Young Adults' Ministry as we study the book of Exodus. It's an exciting book with some of the most dramatic events in the Bible, like the Israelites escaping slavery in Egypt, the Ten Plagues and the parting of the Red Sea. Exodus is also the book where God meets

his people on Mount Sinai. Sinai was where the people received instruction from God about living Holy lives. They also received instructions about building the Tabernacle (God's dwelling place) so people could meet with God. It's a book that offers insight into the rich character of God and foreshadows Jesus' grand plan of rescuing us from the slavery of sin, making us Holy and dwelling with us forever.

Like last year, we will rely on a team of discussion group leaders, the hospitality team, and Gary to enable learning and fellowship among our young adults. Thank and praise God for providing volunteers. It will be different without Andy, but I pray that God will bless the year ahead as much as He blessed us previously.

Please pray for God's protection over our young adults. Pray that these studies will be life-giving 'manna' in the wilderness as we journey towards entering God's promised rest. ■





Our Missionary Family

Matt Lock ELDER AND CHAIR OF CENTRAL'S MISSIONARY SUPPORT GROUP



OVER the coming months, please take time to think and pray for the missionaries we support at CBC. They serve God in different ministries and in different parts of the world, and continually need our prayers as they live out the gospel and support others to do the same.

Please pray for:



Wayne and Miriam Cowpland, in their roles with WEC as Area Directors for Europe. Pray for them as they oversee teams in many different countries, that they will have wisdom, strength and compassion in every situation.

David and Michayla Williams and their family who are missionaries with Pioneers Arab World Ministries in the Arabian Gulf. Pray they will have opportunities to share the gospel with their friends and colleagues.



Tim and Lu Peng and their family who are based in England with COCM, where they are missionaries to Chinese people who are studying and working there.

Laura-Lee Lovering who is our link missionary with the Baptist Missionary Society. She is based in the north of Peru working alongside local churches and has recently returned there after a period of home leave.

Please pray that as a church we will support and pray for missionaries across the world who are following God's call and serving him. ■



MEMBER FILES MEMBER FILES MEMBER FILES



Fiona Mackay

DEACON

I don't remember a time when I was not aware of God's hand in my life, but it was November 1961 that I made that public commitment and was baptised in what was then Ward Road. It was a decision that I have never regretted. God has been my strength and stay over many difficult days.

There's nothing too big or too small for God to deal with. Very often God answers before we call. I was travelling to Skye with my brother, who was only 13, when something went wrong with the steering and we crashed into a deer fence in the middle of Glen Shiel. My brother ran away because he was in shock and I had a compound fracture. It was almost midnight; it was 1969 (so no mobile phones) and the place was so isolated. I was too shocked to think to pray, unless I prayed automatically, but within a very short space of time, a car drew up and a couple got out. They were actually from Dundee - I knew friends of theirs - they did all the needful to get the help we needed. I know that was God's provision.

I had an urgent appointment and had lost my car keys. It was my responsibility and my carelessness, but God answered that prayer too. He led me to the keys, which were in a totally unexpected place. Nothing is too big or too small for our Lord.

One of the lessons I have learned in life is to acknowledge all the little things that God does for us; too often we just take them for granted. It is the unexpected phone call or text message when I am feeling down. It is the kindness of friends. It is the financial provision. It is the unexpected burst of strength to complete a task when I have felt so totally exhausted. It is the love of family.

On the occasions when I feel down, it is because I have lost my focus on Christ. I give myself a telling off, put on worship music and refocus on my precious Lord. He is the one constant in my life, He brings joy, peace, strength and guidance, and has never let me down. I have let Him down, but His Grace is beyond price. ■

Care Home Ministry

Kathryn Wright LEADER IN TRAINING



witnessed the value and necessity of gospel outreach and pastoral care. Our approach is always simple, with some familiar hymns for us all to sing and enjoy, a short 10- to 15-minute devotion and time spent individually with residents providing pastoral care. There's an inherent unpredictability to what we do, but these times are precious to many, and some days there is truly a sense of the Lord at work as even the most confused of the residents present will find calm and peace during our ministry. I've always approached this area of ministry with these great truths set before me: ▶

WALKING into a care home you will find a small community, one where the most varied of individuals are gathered together.

They share little in common, some are requiring help with physical needs, others have various degrees of cognitive impairment, and there are different generations there, some are in their 60s whereas others have passed the 100-year mark.

There is a diversity present in these communities that is often overlooked.

For the majority of residents, the move into a nursing or care home marks them settling in to the final home that they will have in this life, and it is a move that will often bring an isolation from friends and family, from places and activities that they have loved, and from Christian ministry and fellowship.

As we go into these places, we have

We are each made in God's image and as such have inherent dignity and value

GENESIS 1:26-27 | our worth and dignity are bestowed by God.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God

ROMANS 8:38-39 | for those in Christ no circumstances of life and no illnesses are capable of removing them from God's keeping and care.

Nothing is impossible with God

MATTHEW 19:25-26 | when we share the gospel with those who have yet to follow Jesus we do so knowing that even where mind and memory may fail, or where hearts are hardened, there is always the knowledge that by the working of his Spirit, Christ may yet be known.

It's been a great honour for me to minister in this way and to work as part of a committed team of people.

As we continue with this work of care and outreach we would all ask for your continued prayers for the

Lord's provision and leading, and as I continue into the next few years of my post here I would ask for prayers that God would equip me in serving faithfully and well. ■



SUMMER MISSION IN TURKEY

Isla Head

This summer I had the privilege to travel to Turkey on a short-term mission trip with Operation Mobilisation. I'm glad to share some of this with you and hope it will be an encouragement to you.

My 11-day trip to Turkey proved to be all but easy; I was challenged, convicted and encouraged in ways I previously hadn't experienced, but all of which has helped strengthen my relationship with Christ.

Starting in Istanbul, the team orientation time gave us the chance to meet and pray with each other and learn more about what would be happening during our time in Turkey. We were briefed about the Muslim home, learned some basic Turkish, and distributed tracts within our group. Here, we were prompted to think about our testimony, choosing our words carefully to ensure it was appropriate to share with people we would be meeting in Turkey. Our orientation group split into three to form our travel



His response was a conviction of His will for my life – to share the Good News with Muslims.



groups of 6 people, and we set out the following day.

We were blessed to meet with some local believers in a city we visited. The courage, boldness and trust they have is amazing. Many were converts from Islam to Christianity – an act so rebuked in Islam its repercussions involve alienation from society, and ▶

even death. It made me incredibly thankful about how easy it is to live as Christians in Scotland. When walking into the room where they were meeting, the change in atmosphere was as evident as walking into a stifling sauna in the wild Scottish winter. The feeling of joy and love was a mixture of emotions words cannot describe, other than by saying the Holy Spirit was among us.

Around 10 pm that evening, we heard an additional announcement following the final call to prayer. I asked for a translation and discovered someone within the Muslim community had passed away. I felt like I had been kicked in the gut. Guilt and conviction

overwhelmed me as I uncontrollably recited 'I didn't reach them in time' in my head. I left the room and asked God why I felt so guilty. His response was a conviction of His will for my life – to share the Good News with Muslims. Thank you for your prayers and support for me, and please pray for our brothers and sisters in Turkey who have found Christ, and for their families who are not yet Christians. May God give them peace and draw them closer to Him and may their hearts turn to Him.

Thank you God for your unconditional love for us, and the joy and peace you give.



Andrew and Nicola Martin

ENGAGE is a ministry for those in the church family in their 20s and 30s. It allows us to meet together every few months and come alongside one another in our walk with God. The group enables us to build friendships with one another in a relaxed social environment.

engage

The events of the last session included a games night, beach walk and summer BBQ, and we have more events planned for this session. If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining us, please speak to Nicola or myself, or direct them to our page on Facebook.

Our next events are planned for the evening of Saturday 28 October, and the afternoon of Sunday 3 December. We appreciate your continued prayerful support for this ministry. ■

CARNOUSTIE BAPTIST CHURCH

update and prayer points

John Toller PASTOR

AS believers, we know that God answers prayer, and it is amazing to see it happen. As a church family we have mission partners in Afghanistan and have been praying for God to work at the heart of government there to allow women to return to work so that their projects can continue. God has answered that prayer, and such encouragement fuels further prayer.



Over the summer we have seen a real boost to the congregation – the usual holidaymakers, but also some folks who have recently moved into the area or begun coming along to the church and serving with us.

Alongside them, we have also had a family from the Toddler Group and someone who's been at our Manna Café coming along on Sundays, and we are so thankful for these little signs of fruit from our work within the community.

We are also going to be seeing another form of work starting soon, as we begin to make improvements to the inside of the building as the first stage of our Building Project gets underway; and in resurfacing our car park so that we have safer access to the building, particularly for those with mobility needs.

Please join us as we give thanks that we're able to get started on this work; pray that God would provide the funds for the new front entrance; and if you're able to lend a hand with any practical work (e.g., painting) please get in touch!

Sometimes, though, we forget to see, acknowledge and give thanks for answered prayer in our own life or church family. This is particularly true when we are facing challenges – such as at Carnoustie Baptist Church where our reserves of finance are at a critical point (for which I'd ask your prayers). So, for me, this is not just a report but a record of what God is doing and a reminder to give thanks, to rejoice and continue praying!

LOCHEE BAPTIST CHAPEL

update and prayer points

Cath Dickson



THIS month finds us feeling refreshed after the change of pace over the summer and ready for what the Lord has in store for us during this next season.

We're blessed by all the children in our congregation, a few of whom are now moving up from the children's programme to the adult Sunday School, so we're looking at ways to keep them engaged in Bible study. We're encouraged to have some new regulars on Sundays.

Our church family has continued to have a lot of fun together at our monthly socials. This term we held a board games night at the church, hosted a BBQ and outdoor games at Camperdown Park, and the men have had a few evenings playing pool, table tennis and darts at the church along with older children. It's great seeing

members bringing friends and family to join in.

Following the summer break, our bustling toddlers' group has restarted. Three new babies arrived last term and another is on the way. Although a few toddlers have graduated to nursery, we've had a number of new people joining.

- Pray for those from our community coming along to socials and toddlers to have soft hearts towards the gospel.
- Pray for the opportunity Dave has to resume his teaching series on the ten commandments with the Boys Brigade this term.
- Pray that we will continue to grow in unity, loving the Lord and each other that shows in our witness here in Lochee.



COURSE REVIEW

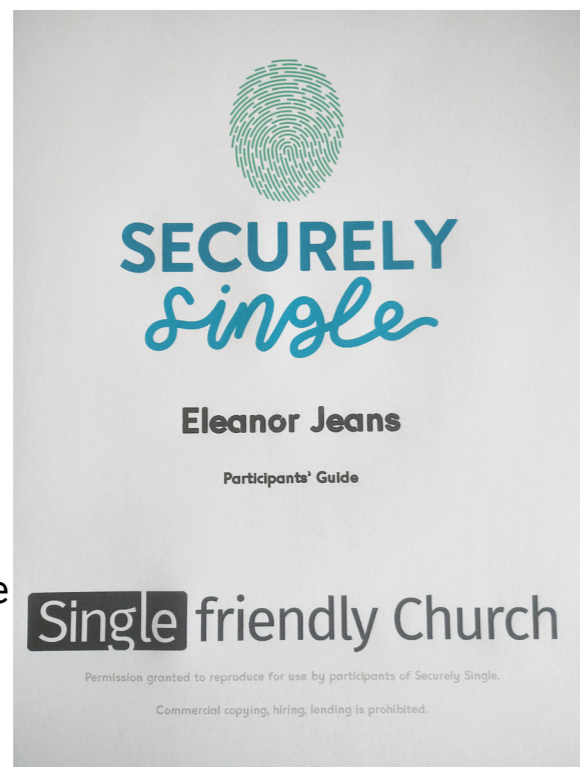
Review by Kathryn Wright
LEADER IN TRAINING

SINGLENES is the calling of many in our churches, but it would seem that it is very often seen as a life not quite lived, of falling short of expectations, a place to be pitied or fixed. It doesn't take long reading our Bibles to recognise that this shouldn't be the case, Jesus' teaching attaches no pity, shame or stigma to the single person. Sometimes it is a conscious choice made as someone realises that their particular call to service is better fulfilled if they remain independent of the commitments to spouse or children, sometimes it is a gospel call due to issues of sexuality or for those who, in order to remain faithful to marriage within faith, find themselves unable to marry. For others their singleness is a season experienced before marriage, after divorce, or after the death of their spouse. Each person called to this life will find that there are blessings to be found, but also that there are



real griefs and challenges to be faced, and navigating these well is a task that all of us need support in.

It does seem strange when we consider the many courses and books aimed at supporting those who are considering, or who are in marriage, how little provision there is for the equipping and disciplining of the many(!) Christians



who are single. Gradually this does appear to be changing though, as there is a growing awareness of the cultural issues around sex and sexuality that impact our congregations, and as we seek to show a biblical, Christ-centred view of those who are

COURSE REVIEW

The course has five sessions:

- 1 Is there something wrong with me? | 2 Who are you? Unveiling God's promises.
- 3 Is singleness a gift? | 4 What about intimacy and celibacy?
- 5 Moving on: Making the most of being single

not and may never be married. Just as we recognise that marriage comes with its own particular challenges, we must also recognise the support that single people require in navigating some of the pains and issues particular to them.

The 'Securely Single' course is a decent starting point for these discipleship resources. It provides the space to honestly discuss some of the real struggles that can be faced but also to discuss the providence and blessing of God in the lives we have been called to. Although the course doesn't have the 'slickness' of some other resources, the material itself is a helpful guide to bring the subject into

the light of God's word and show that even with its difficulties singleness can indeed be a gift to those who are called to it and to the whole church. It highlights that there is a dignity and a purpose to the single person's life, and that being single should not have to mean isolation.

The workbook format and videos could do with some updating, particularly the videos – but in fairness that all seems to be a work in progress, and it will be interesting to see what the updated version looks like. There is still a dearth of good resources in this area, but just maybe we will see that shifting ■

DIARY DATES

16 October – 27 November:
Christianity Explored course
(7 weeks on Monday evenings,
7.30-9.00pm)

Saturday 28 October:
Church Conference (9.00am-1.00pm)

Saturday 4 November:
Tayside Baptist Churches prayer
evening (7.00-9.00pm) (organised by
Baptist Union of Scotland)

Sunday 26 November:
Annual DECA service - Grace Church
(6.30pm)

Wednesday 6 December:
Congregational meeting (7.30pm)

HOME MISSION

FULL GOSPEL CHURCH
OUTREACH

Michael Holloway

HI, my name is Michael Holloway and I am involved with Full Gospel Church in Hilltown, Dundee. As a community of faith we decided that it was necessary to start reaching into the community around us. A few of us began heading to the multistorey flats in Hilltown to talk to whoever was about. Now, every Thursday afternoon from 2–4 pm a few of us set up a gazebo and a table; we provide tea, coffee and sandwiches, and make ourselves available to whoever shows up, to talk about the good news of Christ Jesus' death and resurrection.

There has been so much negative attention given to what is often called the 'Dundee multi's', that we are moved to reach these people with the good news of Jesus Christ – 'If not us then who?'. We started this outreach on 25 May this year. Since this time, we have had many opportunities to share our faith and to pray for people. We were aware that this outreach could work during the good weather, but were not sure what we could do



during the colder months. However, during our time ministering at these flats, we were approached by the council and have been offered the use of the community space at the foot of Tulloch Court multistorey flats. So please, if you pray, please pray for us while we reach out with the good news of our saviour Christ Jesus. ■



CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

What's the best news you've
ever heard?

Christianity Explored @ Central at 7.30pm
every Monday from **Monday 16 October** to
Monday 27 November in The Link,
Central Baptist Church, Ward Road, Dundee,
DD1 1LX.

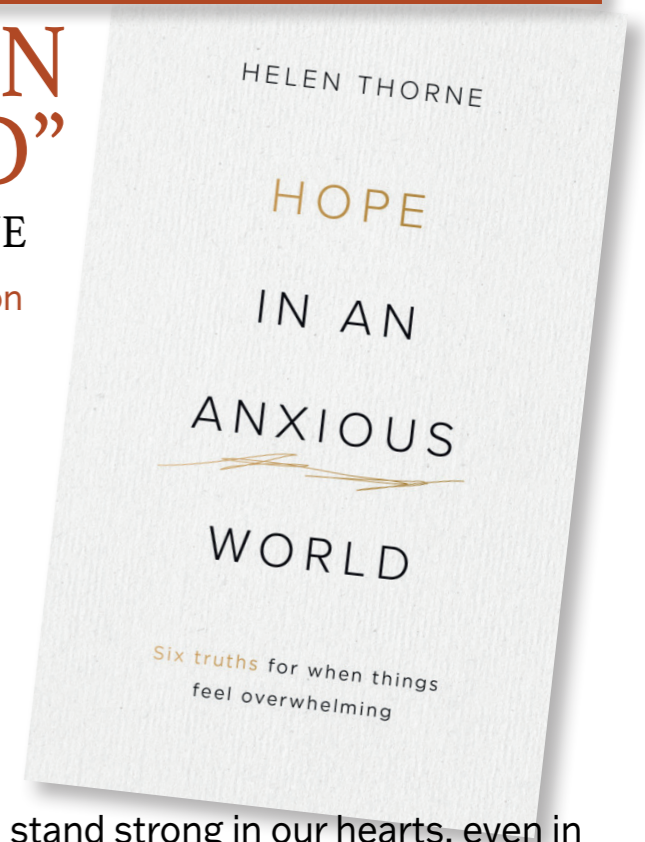
For further information email
enquiries@centraldundee.com

BOOK REVIEW

“HOPE IN AN ANXIOUS WORLD”

BY HELEN THORNE

Reviewed by Sarah Thompson



DO not be anxious about anything” ...most of us will be familiar with Paul’s words from Philippians (4v6a). But what does that mean when we seek to apply it to our own experiences of anxiety, wherever they fall on the spectrum: from common interview anxiety to anxiety requiring medication or psychological intervention?

This excellent book written by experienced counsellor Helen Thorne is not only personable and easy to read, but it is very short (less than 100 pages!).

Thorne first explores the experience of anxiety and what may lie beneath it before helping us see the good in the help and wisdom this world has to offer in managing anxiety. But Thorne doesn’t stop there, she takes us deeper to consider our hearts and how God speaks into our anxiety. To do this she examines six lies which anxiety can easily convince us are true such as “I’m all alone” or “Everything is out of control” and shows how God’s Word

can stand strong in our hearts, even in the face of these lies.

This book is a short helpful read for anyone! Even if you’ve never suffered from anxiety, you will undoubtedly know someone who does – why not offer to read through it with them? Thorne’s writing is very accessible for non-Christians, explaining that while none of us can be guaranteed relief from anxiety in this life, the truth of the Gospel does guarantee us hope in our hearts in the midst of anxiety in this world. So, consider giving it to family and friends who don’t yet know Jesus too!

This book is available in the Central Resource Library, in the entrance hall. ■

THE deteriorating state of my health was becoming more obvious, and our annual visit to the Keswick Convention was increasingly in jeopardy. However, my consultant advised me to go and enjoy as much as possible before returning for treatment; a week's delay would not be significant.

We made the journey, in stages, arriving on Saturday afternoon, in considerable pain, but I was so happy just to be there. Our apartment had a smart TV so I knew I could link into the livestream services. I would just have to sacrifice the physicality of being in that 5000 seater tent.

Tuning in that evening for the welcome event confirmed that the hard plastic shell seats in the tent would not be suitable at all for me, but, hey, I was

more or less there. I could still enjoy the messages and the sounds of the singing.

But Heather, perceptive as ever, could detect even the slightest disappointment, and took things into her own hands. At the close of the welcome service she walked all the way down to the Convention site and began to accost the stewards who

were still there. Were there any other more comfortable chairs available? The third steward took her around the exhibition hall and the café area, but no, nothing suitable. The new seats in the café had large gaps in the back so offered no support.

"We could try the store room over there" said Chris, escorting Heather to a building at the end. "Just wait hereOh! Look at this!"

THE CHAIR



Irvine Kerr

Propping open the store room door was A CHAIR. "Would this do?" he asked. "Just perfect" answered Heather, so the chair was commandeered and taken over to the main tent. Chris and Heather selected the best position and Chris found a couple of Reserved cards which he placed on my seat and the adjacent one.

This was wonderful. I had a comfortable seat, I wouldn't have to go early to ensure I had a seat, and I would really be there in the atmosphere of worship and praise to our God who takes care of the details. Thus we were able to enjoy almost all the main events, morning and evening in the company of our brothers and sisters. ▶

On our return home we messaged Chris to thank him for his part in making the convention such a blessing for me, and he replied with a lovely message saying he was blessed to

be of service and that he and his wife were praying for us.

What encouragement and reassurance to know that we are always on THE MASTER'S MIND.

Showers of Blessing

IT was a busy bustling market day in Keswick. A thought – Do market towns do anything else but “bustle”? We had just arrived after a difficult journey and checked in to our accommodation, and there was time to get some provisions from local producers.

The flower stall had a lovely display of plants although business seemed to have quietened down, so I had space for a good browse and a chat with the stallholder, a little Latino-looking lady. Chatting about the plants and the weather, she said that the forecast hadn't been good, but we were blessed because it was sunny. I replied, “Yes, and I'm blessed because I have safely made the long tiring journey here for the convention. I didn't think we'd make it because my husband has been ill.” “Then you're doubly blessed” she added,” and remember, 'I can do all things through

Christ who strengthens me.”

I agreed and thanked her for her encouragement. She went on, “Acknowledge Him” ...pointing upwards... “and He will direct your paths.”

Other customers were now appearing, so I didn't have the opportunity to ask her more about herself or how she knew the Scriptures, but it was amazing to have such a lovely conversation with a random stall holder, and a great welcome for our week at Keswick convention.

Such encouragement from a stranger and the support we got for Irvine to be able to attend the convention event (See “The Chair”) remind us of God's never-failing love and care for us as we read in Matthew 6v8 *“Do not be found like them, for your father knows what you need before you ask Him.”*

Heather Kerr

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