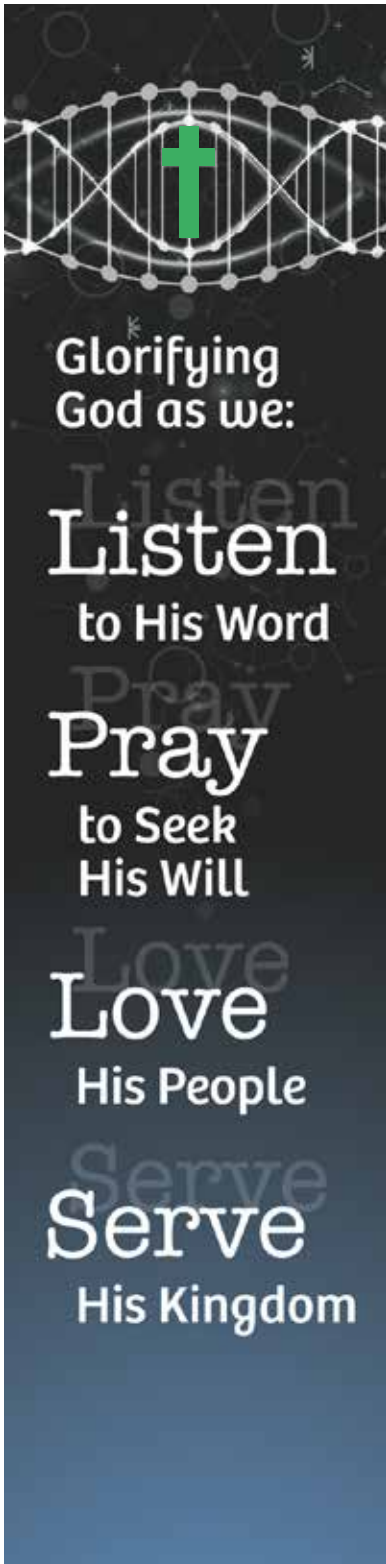


THE LINK



THE LINK MAGAZINE | A PROMPT TO PRAYER

Jim Turrent | Lead Pastor



WELCOME to this latest edition of *The Link*!

It is a joy to click into the multifaceted ministries of our church family and see what God is doing.

We are so grateful for the army of people who give of themselves sacrificially to serve God in this, His church.

Let this edition of our magazine be a prompt to prayer – and to the giving of our time, talents and treasure for the glory of Christ!

God said to his ancient people:

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this’, says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.’” (MALACHI 3)

Let’s do it!

Love, Jim

CONTENTS

PAGE 3-4	Introducing Alwis Philip New Pastor-in-Training
PAGE 4-5	Women's Ministry Summer 2022 Karen Keir
PAGE 6-7	Little Blessings Colin Watson
PAGE 7	Word Search
PAGE 8-9	Youth Ministry Update Michael and Abby Adamson
PAGE 9	Welcome Lunch Caren Bennett
PAGE 10-11	Faith and Friendship Vivienne Gunaratne
PAGE 12-16	Overseas Mission
PAGE 12-13	Scott and Nok Murray
PAGE 14-15	BMS Birthday Scheme
PAGE 16	Africa Inland Mission Sheona Chisholm
PAGE 17	Book Review Helena Holt
PAGE 17	Dundee and Angus Foodbank
PAGE 18	Carnoustie Baptist Church John Toller
PAGE 19	Lochee Baptist Chapel Cath Dickson
PAGE 20-21	Friends International Dundee Charis Chi
PAGE 22-23	Member Files Joanna and Jonnie Armitage
PAGE 24-25	Member Files Allison McMahon
PAGE 25	Keith and Joyce Wood
PAGE 26-27	The Family of Faith Kathryn Wright
PAGE 27	Hospitality Fiona Mackay
BACK COVER	Church Contacts

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 and personal testimonies from one or two of our members. 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@centrالدundee.com. We would love to hear from you!

Every edition of *The Link* is available as pdf format and can be downloaded from centrالدundee.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, Fiona Mackay, Lindsey McCowan, Allison McMahon, Jane Scott, Tegwen Wallace and Kathryn Wright.

INTRODUCING ALWIS PHILIP

New Pastor-in-Training at CBC
(from August 2022)



Q Alwis, we are really excited about you joining us at Central as a Pastor-in-Training, tell us a little bit about yourself and your background.

A My family is from south India, but I was born in Dubai and lived there till I was 9. Then my family made the obvious decision to leave sunny Dubai and make the move to cloudy and cold Aberdeen, which has been my home ever since. I've always grown up attending church; in Aberdeen, I went to Hebron Evangelical Church, an independent church based in the city centre. It was the church I went to as a youth and as a student while I studied at Aberdeen University. I owe a lot to Hebron because that's where the gospel was patiently preached to me. The youth fellowship played a big role in this, so as a student I became passionate about the youth work going on at Hebron and got involved with it on a weekly basis and occasionally volunteered at youth camps. Since moving to London to become a Ministry Trainee at Bush Hill Park Community Church, I've led the youth group as one of my main responsibilities. God has given me the privilege to see him transform the lives of young people both in Aberdeen and London.

In terms of hobbies, I enjoy cooking (but it does not mean I'm any good!), I love playing badminton and am always up for a game, and I've recently started running (and I'd like to add emphasis to the word 'recently'). A fun fact about me is that I grew up alongside Andy Holt at Hebron and pestered him regularly with facts about honey badgers.

Q Alongside working in the church you will be doing the Pastor's Training Course (PTC) and an associated Masters with Cornhill Scotland. What excites you about this next chapter?

A In terms of working at a church, I'm glad to announce that the past 2 years working at Bush Hill Park have not put me off. If anything, ►

I'm more excited than ever to continue training by gaining practical ministry experience in the local church. I'm particularly excited about observing Stuart and Jim and learning from their example of caring for and pastoring the church. Having recently interviewed with the PTC tutors, I think it is the right time for me to take on a course like this. I'm hopeful that PTC will help me to grow and serve CBC for the better. I never thought I'd ever say "I miss writing academic essays" but I'm really looking forward to the associated Masters, which I believe will push me to understand God's word better.

Q How can we be praying for you between now and August?

A I can't express how much I love my small church family here in London and I will miss them a lot. Even though I'm excited about moving to Dundee, I want to make sure that I finish well at Bush Hill Park while I think about the big move. Please thank God for how loving the church here has been to me and please pray that I finish well as I prepare for the big move to Dundee. ■

WOMEN'S MINISTRY | SUMMER 2022

Karen Keir | Women's Pastoral Coordinator



AS we draw to the close of another academic year and the beginning of the 'post-Covid' era, it seems a good time to look back and reflect over the development of Women's Ministry in CBC.

It has been a strange season in many ways with the stop/start nature of Covid restrictions and the need for flexibility in how we meet together and make connections. It is, however, with thankfulness that I look back over the year.

So, what's been happening with the Women of CBC? Well, the two women's Bible studies on a Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning have continued meeting on Zoom. Although Zoom can be a struggle for some, it has been a wonderful solution to the varying restrictions over the past 2 years and ▶

has allowed us to remain in fellowship together around God's word. The groups have been a huge encouragement to me personally as I have seen relationships within the group deepen in trust and in vulnerability, especially as we share in prayer during smaller breakout rooms at the end of the study. Over this past year we have looked at God's Covenant with Abraham, worked through one of the streams of the passion for life material, tackled Galatians and are now finishing the term with a study on the book of Esther. It has been remarkable how in each of these parts of Scripture there has been a coherent gospel thread that we have been able to follow and build into our lives – God's great unmerited love that He chose to bestow upon humanity from his promises to Abraham that He would make him a great nation and that from him would come one through whom all nations would be blessed, to Galatians which reminds us that the gift of salvation and being made right with God is just that, a gift, not something that we can earn, and reminding us that in Christ we are children of that same promise made to Abraham. Having this understanding of the grace of the Gospel helped us as we prayed for our friends and sought to become more effective in holding out this Gospel to them. And finally in the book of Esther, we have been discovering that even though the name of God is not mentioned in it, we can see His power at work through humanly speaking powerless people to preserve his Covenant people, keeping that Covenant promise that the Gospel might be fulfilled.

Another great encouragement was the Women's Morning we had in March, ably led by Sarah Thompson on the subject of 'The Gift of Lament – what do you do with your pain?'. It was such a joy to see a room full of women ready to share together and enjoy teaching and fellowship once more. It was also great to see people using their gifts to build up the body. Thank you to Sarah for her teaching, to Jane and team who led us in worship, to Lindsey and team for the refreshments and to Priya and Margaret for helping decorate with flowers, as well as Fiona and Gary for help with the technical side of things. If you missed it a recording is available.

A lot of the women's ministry goes on quietly behind the scenes as women meet one to one to encourage, challenge, build up and support one another, and this is something that we want to support and encourage. Watch this space for more upcoming events. I am available also for one-to-one support and prayer, please just get in touch. ■



LITTLE BLESSINGS

Colin Watson | Children and Families Coordinator

THURSDAYS 10–11:15AM



WHEN we were looking for a name for the relaunching of our Parent Toddler Group, the only suggestion was *Little Blessings*.

Typically, there are two ways of saying “they’re a little blessing”; one very sincerely

and secondly using a sarcastic tone as a frustrated parent has yet another battle with a strong-willed wee one! I’m glad to report our toddlers come under the first category (certainly on a Thursday morning!).

We have been meeting since October 2020 with interludes for any Covid-19 lockdowns. We have a small but committed cohort of regulars, but if everyone came we’d have around 13 adults (including helpers) and 10 youngsters. Just this week one of the mums remarked “we love our toddler group”, I know I ‘love it’ too. The ‘little blessings’ bless us as we see them grow and run into the Link hall as if they were running into their own living room. What an encouragement as we want our children and young people to see Central as their home – a safe, secure and welcoming place where they are nurtured as children of God.

There is no structured programme but the usual format involves free play while the adults have a cuppa and a catch up, then at around 10:45am the ▶

children have a snack followed by a Bible story and some songs. We aim to tidy up for 11:15am, which allows parents to collect any other pre-school children from nursery.

Please mention this ministry to neighbours, family and friends, and come along with them!

A couple of areas to pray for are:



Give thanks for the deepening of relationships that is taking place and for the friendships we see forming amongst the children.

Opportunities to share with non-Christians or others who don't worship at Central.

We intend to continue *Little Blessings* over the summer holiday season. Most groups stop at this time so we hope that by doing something different we will be able to make more connections with people. In recent weeks we have had some folk with no church connection attending, so that has been a great encouragement. ■

WORD SEARCH

Psalms 19:7-8

International Children's Bible

The Lord's teachings are perfect.

They give new strength.

The Lord's rules can be trusted.

They make plain people wise.

The Lord's orders are right.

They make people happy.

The Lord's commands are pure.

They light up the way.

P	E	R	F	E	C	T	G	W	Z
S	S	X	P	W	T	N	U	I	V
E	K	T	D	F	I	H	D	S	J
L	I	C	R	H	J	E	G	E	O
U	N	S	C	E	T	Y	Q	I	R
R	A	A	I	S	N	N	U	H	L
O	E	R	U	P	Q	G	A	U	E
T	J	R	O	S	M	P	T	Y	C
Y	T	K	X	D	P	L	L	H	B
G	O	Q	I	Y	X	Y	K	E	Y

happy
pure
teaching

light
rules
trusted

perfect
strength
wise

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Michael and Abby Adamson

AFTER 6 years, Stewart Milligan is stepping down from his role as Youth Ministry Leader at the end of June. During this time, he has worked faithfully with the rest of the team to care for and help disciple our young people. We would like to thank Stewart on behalf of everyone involved in the Youth Ministry for all the love and hard work he has put in over the last 6 years, not least in navigating the challenges of leading a youth ministry during the pandemic.

We will be taking on the role of Interim Leaders while a review of the church's Youth Ministry is carried out by a group led by the Eldership. Our aim is to help our young people grow as disciples of Jesus Christ through studying the Bible, prayer and spending time together.

We are grateful to be taking over at a time when restrictions have lifted. At the end of March, the youth and leaders went to the Willowgate Activity Centre in Perth and enjoyed a brilliant day of kayaking, paddleboarding, archery, campfire



building and beach volleyball! It was great to be together again after so long on Zoom and meeting behind masks. We look forward to running more events like this soon!

Bible Class and Youth Fellowship sessions during Sunday services will continue, as well as times where we worship together with the whole church family.

We also have plans to open up our home for food, fun and fellowship. We are really excited about this in particular; we have fond memories of our own youth leaders doing this for us when we were younger!

Our new regular programme will be launched towards the end of the summer holidays ready for the new school year, but we hope to have a few other events in place before then too. We will be communicating primarily via our closed Central ▶

Youth Facebook group, Central Youth Instagram page and email.

It's such a privilege to be given this opportunity by the church and we look forward to getting stuck in.

Please pray for us and the rest of the youth leaders, for our young people and for their parents and carers. And if you see a young person around church, go and talk to them! ■

WELCOME LUNCH

Caren Bennett

ON Sunday 8 May the Welcome Team organised a buffet lunch in the Link Hall after the morning service. This was for anyone who was new to Central and had been attending over the last 2 years. Previously this had been an annual event and we have had barbecues and garden picnics, but because of the pandemic this hasn't been possible. Now that we are able to meet again, we decided

to have an informal lunch after the morning service in the Link Hall. More than 50 people signed up to attend and it went very well with good food and fellowship. It was a good opportunity to get to know people and chat, and also for newcomers to have the chance to meet up with the Pastors, staff and other church family. It went very well. Thanks to all those who helped to make it a success. ■



Faith & Friendship

Vivienne Gunaratne

FAITH and Friendship Tuesday afternoons at Central hold a warm and welcoming ministry which is run by a dedicated team who serve and delight those who attend. It is one of the church events that has no age limit and is open to everyone, whether a member, non-church attender or visitor. It offers time to share fellowship, light refreshments and fun, interjected with songs of praise and a carefully selected speaker to leave us with a thought to ponder for the coming week.

What is faith? There are many beautiful passages in the Bible which are encouraging and direct us towards faith. *'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths.'* PROVERBS 3:5-6 ESV. *'And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith'* MATTHEW 21:22. *'For we walk by faith, not by sight'* 2 CORINTHIANS 5:7.

We are brought together because we have faith, our doors are not closed to those who have yet to come to faith, through friendship, the miracle of bringing someone to faith is always a possibility. *'For nothing will be impossible with God'* LUKE 1:37. There was once a time in our lives when we felt our world was spiralling out of control. One particular day we found ourselves wandering around the city in a bewildered and sorrowful state, lost and alone. I think that was the first time we went together to Faith and Friendship, on that day it offered us a safe place, a refuge where we could temporarily forget our problems and be surrounded by love and friendship. I wonder if others have felt abandoned, a little lost, their faith wavering but felt comforted amongst friends? The Bible passage which comes to mind is: *'For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up.'* ECCLESIASTES 4:10 ESV. I believe that is why this ministry is so relevant in these times; our lives can be difficult with many hurdles, some ▶

predictable and others unforeseen. When someone is not at Faith and Friendship, people worry about them and messages of love and support are brought to them. *'Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing'* 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11.

Ultimately Faith and Friendship allows new connections to be made, a time to enjoy each other's company, laugh, play games and worship in song and prayer. If you are worried about coming, be not, *'For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.'* MATTHEW 18:20. Isn't that a wonderful and comforting place to be? God bless and hope to see you there. ■





UPDATE FROM SCOTT AND NOK MURRAY — OUR MISSIONARIES

CBC has supported Scott and Nok Murray as missionaries since Scott was a student studying medicine in Dundee. They are a Surgeon and Nurse team who have spent much of the last 30 years working in Thailand in Mission Hospitals. They spent 20 years at Manorom Christian Hospital in the Central Plains or Rice bowl of Thailand. During the last 3-4 years of that time Scott was the Hospital Director as well as the only surgeon. After this they spent nearly 10 years working in another Mission Hospital in the jungle on the Thai-Myanmar border, serving the 5-6 different people groups living in the jungle on both sides of the border whilst there was ongoing military conflict in Myanmar.



Scott was both the Hospital Director and only surgeon again at Kwai River Christian Hospital, whilst Nok ran the Public Health outreach work (Antenatal clinics, Vaccination program, TB, AIDS and under 5 health and Nutrition program). Evangelism through the medical work of Kwai River was a central part of their ministry and they were able to share the gospel with many of the patients coming for treatment from a 250km radius.

They helped the local disabled community, by setting up income generating projects, for about 150 families. This enabled people to work from their homes and still

be able to care for disabled family members. They also managed a half-way residential home for those who were neglected, disenfranchised or particularly outcast from their own communities or had special needs.

Their aim was, and continues to be to share Christ both through sharing the Gospel and providing practical help through those ministries.

Scott and Nok returned to Scotland for a short break at the beginning of 2020, but were unable to return to Thailand as Covid became a global Pandemic. At the moment they are still living in Scotland and Scott is working in a hospital, both treating patients and helping to train new surgical students. Nok is doing some part-time interpreting for Thai people living in Scotland who need translation services, and she is helping to run a Thai bible study for Thai in Scotland and working as a child carer for a neighbouring family.

They hope to return to Thailand to continue to serve God there, so please pray for them as they look to the future and trust in God's leading for them and their ministry work. ■

BMS WORLD MISSION BIRTHDAY SCHEME

'EVERY YEAR, BIRTHDAY SCHEME MEMBERS DONATE OVER £250,000!'

'These gifts are having a huge impact, saving and transforming lives in countries across the world.'

From the BMS World Mission website

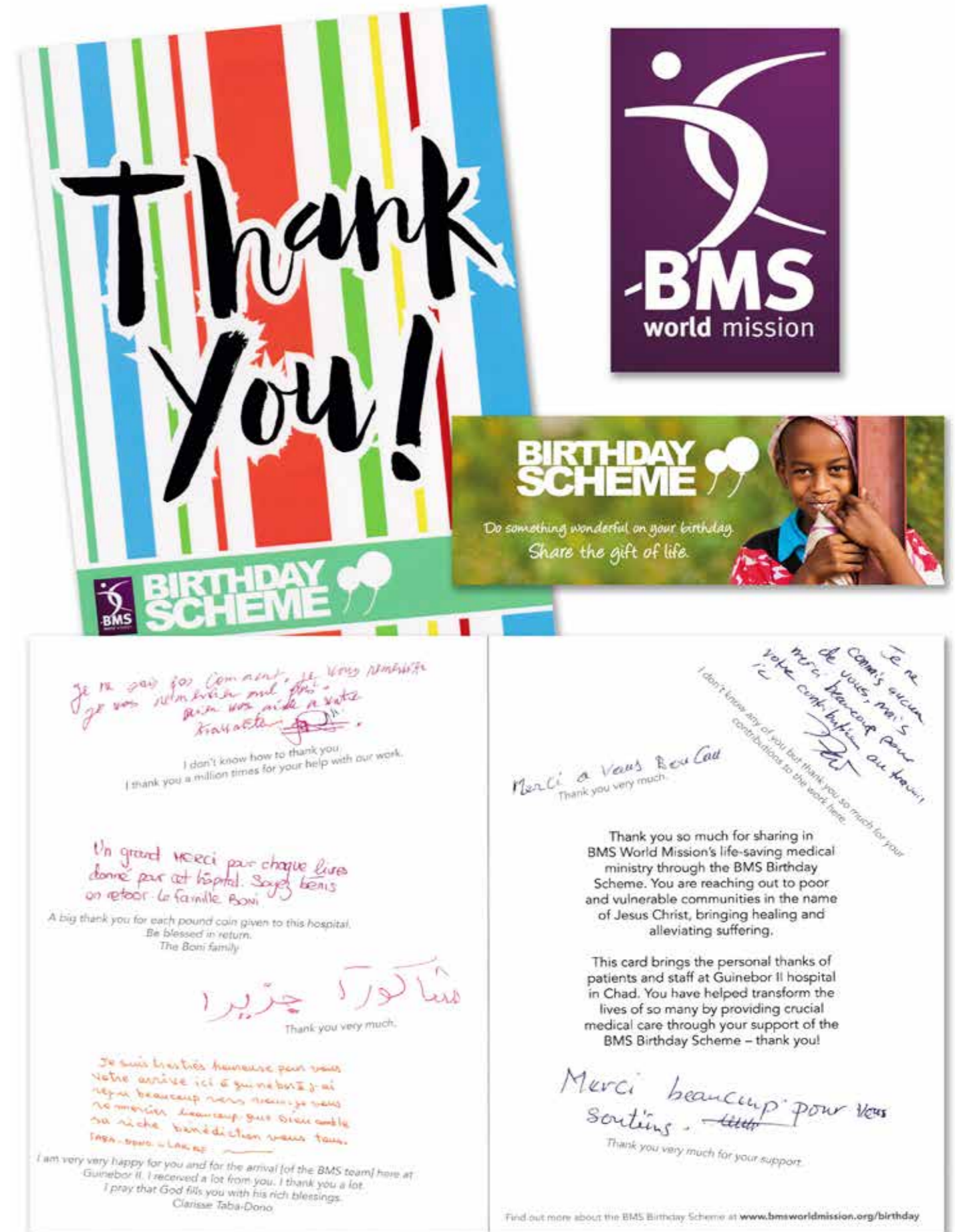
www.bmsworldmission.org/get-involved/fundraising/birthday-scheme/

CENTRAL Baptist Church Dundee has been operating the BMS Birthday Scheme, which contributes towards the work of BMS World Mission, for many years now. Each year around the time of their birthday, Scheme members receive a lovely birthday card and newsletter. Also included is an envelope in which the Scheme member can give a donation that can be gift aided if the person pays UK income tax. Recently we received a letter from BMS World Mission informing us that Central Baptist was one of the highest-giving churches to the Scheme last year. We were in the top 50 churches out of 800 congregations taking part in the Scheme. Despite the all the difficulties arising from Covid-19, the Scheme raised £249,000 in 2021.

The BMS World Mission Birthday Scheme contributes to a variety of medical projects. Along with the letter was a thank you card from Guinebor II hospital in Chad. It contains handwritten notes and signatures from hospital patients and staff in English, French and Chadian Arabic, thanking scheme members for the life-saving work they have enabled. In 2021, workers at Guinebor II welcomed an incredible 14,000 people into their outpatient clinic, with a further 5000 being treated in the emergency room. They performed 65,000 lab tests, diagnosing deadly diseases and infections such as malaria, HIV and hepatitis. A wonderful 1949 babies were also brought safely into the world, all thanks to the Birthday Scheme. ▶

For more information on the scheme, you can watch a video which is free to download at the following link: www.bmsworldmission.org/birthdaythanks

To find out how to join please contact Eva Stirling who is the Secretary of the Scheme for Central Baptist Church Dundee. You can be blessed and bless others by joining the BMS Birthday Scheme. ■





AFRICA INLAND MISSION

Sheona Chisholm | AIM's Mission Advisor for Scotland

MY name is Sheona Chisholm, I'm a member of Downfield Mains church here in Dundee. I serve as Africa Inland Mission's Mission Advisor for Scotland.

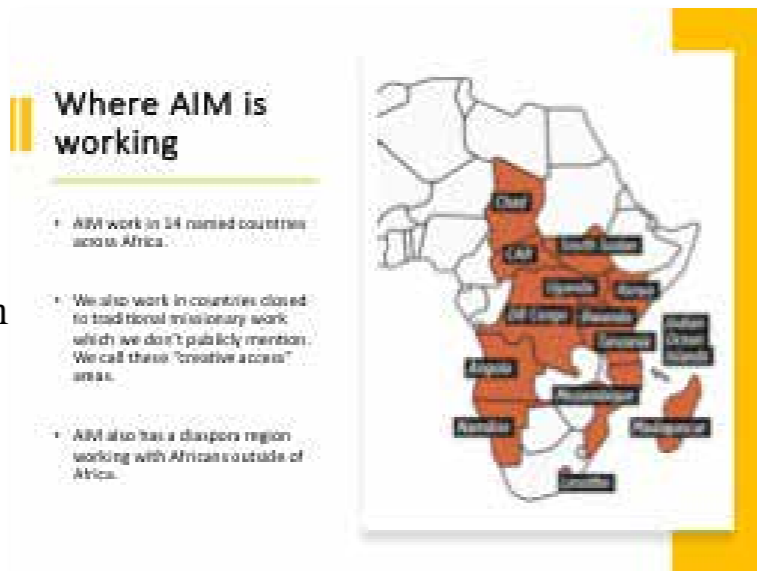
Who are AIM?

Established in 1895, Africa Inland Mission (AIM) is a Christian mission-sending agency focused on Africa. Our stated mission is to see "Christ-centred churches established among all African peoples".

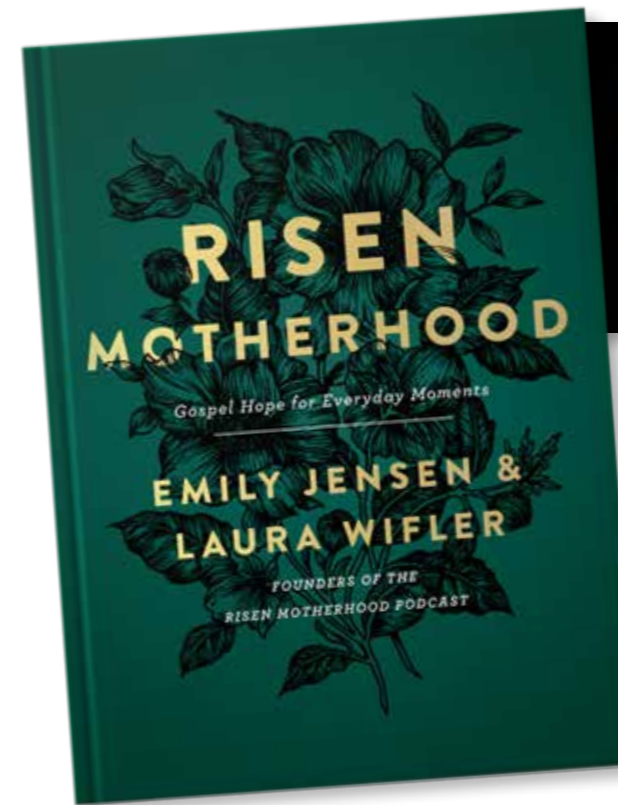
AIM serves and partners with churches to fulfil the Great Commission and advance the gospel among Africans who have the least opportunity to hear about Jesus. We exist to help local churches send missionaries to reach Africa's people with the good news of Jesus.

Why send missionaries to Africa?

- God has been working in Africa!
- There are still almost 1000 unreached people groups in Africa – that's almost 300 million people.
- Most of those people are in the Muslim areas in the North, Horn and East coast.
- AIM is looking for people to go and take the good news to millions who are lost – evangelists, teachers, disciplers, medics, English teachers . . . anyone – so long as they passionate to share Jesus.



If anyone is interested in the work of AIM, to go as short term/long term/ medical elective etc, please contact me @ scotland.eu@aimint.org or phone 07933 999150 ■



'MOTHERHOOD is hard. One second, we think we're doing a good enough job; the next we feel like the worst mum on the planet. Which is why we need the refreshing truth of the gospel to be repeated over and over again, giving us hope in the everyday moments.'

Tackling 14 different issues ranging from birth experiences and postpartum body image, to our food choices, relationships and our heart attitudes, Emily and Laura apply and repeat gospel truth in a relatable and readable way. In each chapter they work through the simple pattern of creation, fall, redemption and consummation; studying God's good design, the effects of sin, how Jesus' death has freed us from sin therefore enables us to live differently, and what we can look forward to in the new creation.

I've found this book incredibly encouraging and challenging, at points it's maybe a little America-specific (the chapter on school choices) but it was still helpful to think through how the gospel should shape my approach to education. It has challenged me to be more intentional in preaching the gospel to myself daily, because only the gospel addresses my greatest need. ■



IN such difficult times for many Central Baptist Church is thankful to now be a referral agency for the Dundee and Angus Foodbank, allowing us to connect those in need with help from the Foodbank. If you are in need of assistance or information please contact the church office or one of the pastoral staff team.

dundeeandangus.foodbank.org.uk/ ■

CARNOUSTIE BAPTIST CHURCH UPDATE AND PRAYER POINTS

John Toller | Pastor



BACK at the beginning of the year I wrote about how we at CBC felt like we were in a time of waiting. We paused, looked in faith to God, trusting Him to lead us – and He has been so faithful!

Our Toddler Group restarted with a bang; we have had to start ticketing and are looking at another weekly or fortnightly session because we have had so much interest. That's just one aspect of a growing number of connections within the community.



A big part of the past few months has been the development of the Manna Project. What started as a means of better organising the provision of meals for those in need within the church family, with a long-term vision for expanding this to community contacts, has become a

regular opportunity to provide food to any who can benefit from it, starting with the community groups using the church building. It's been amazing to see this door open, and how it has enabled better links with these other groups as well as creating new links. We are planning in the near future to expand this further and start the Manna Café one day a week. Please pray with us for the Project – we don't just want to be meeting a material need, though are thankful for the opportunity to do so – we want to see opportunities for the Gospel.

Another answer to prayer has been the progress on my operation to repair cartilage in my hip; after a remarkable turnaround, this happened on 27 May. The recovery time is not certain – I really appreciate your prayers for me, the family and the church in this time.

Finally, please do continue to pray for God's provision for the building work; we have seen his goodness yet again, but still need around £17,000 before we can start the work, with 2 years before our planning permission expires. ■

LOCHEE BAPTIST CHAPEL UPDATE AND PRAYER POINTS

Cath Dickson



AS the sun emerged after winter and lockdown restrictions eased even further, so too have people emerged from their homes, feeling more relaxed about gatherings, and meaning we've had further opportunities to connect in bigger groups with our community.

For Easter we set up a trail, telling the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Alongside this, we joined with neighbours to erect a large inflatable slide and food tables. A good number of people completed the Easter trail (and claimed their chocolate prize) and many children enjoyed the slide! We've been getting active this term, hosting a Zumba and cake evening with mums from the toddlers' group, and our very first ceilidh! The Zumba evening was very well received by the mums who attended, and we hope to hold another one soon. Fun was had by all at the ceilidh, and now that we've had a successful trial, we hope to expand this to a wider group next time. We've had a few more jumble sales, which have been an encouraging point of contact for those attending, and especially for us to get to know the community group volunteers.

On Sunday mornings at our pre-service Sunday school class, we've completed an evangelism course and are currently learning about church membership and baptism. During this time, the kids love to hear Bible stories and sing together during their Deep Down Detectives programme.

It has been a blessing to bring in some new church members this term. We've had some wonderful times of fellowship at church lunches and at what we have named Clanantics – a family evening of entertaining each other with creativity (and cake, of course)!

Pray for our gospel worker, Emma Kidd, as she heads over to the USA to participate in a supporting church's summer internship programme. We'd also appreciate prayer for a visiting mission team in June.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our community. ■



A FORETASTE OF HEAVEN

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MINISTRY

Charis Chi | Friends International
Staff Worker, Dundee

“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” GENESIS 12:2-3

THE gospel message invites us to expect a heavenly scene where Jesus’ followers from every nation, tribe, people and language will stand before the throne to worship Him on His return day. However, before God completes this big picture, we have the privilege of being part of this great mission together in the land of Scotland.

The lively expression of the worship from my Nigerian and Ugandan brothers and sisters, the spirit-filled prayers from my Indian brothers and sisters, and the logically considered Bible interpretation skills from my



British brothers and sisters are just a few pieces of the jigsaw puzzle that God brought into my life since I came to the UK in 2017.

Serving among international ►

students for Friends International helps me to experience the width and depth of God’s love for His people from different nations.

The Evangelism opportunity among international students

Every year thousands of international students come to study in Scotland; some of them from countries with limited access to the gospel. Some international students will return to positions of significant roles. When international students come to Scotland, they long to make friends and experience local culture. They also have an openness to receive new information including the life-changing good news. It brings us the story of the Ethiopia eunuch (Acts 8:27-39) if we know God has already prepared a group of international students’ heart to receive the hope in Jesus. What we need to do is to welcome, connect with them and point them to Jesus.

In the previous years, many of my Algerian PhD students who were sponsored by the government to study in the UK have visited churches and engaged in significant spiritual conversations. Many Japanese students came to study English and appreciated visiting local people’s home. Those who have received the hospitality from Christian families

Check out www.friendsinternational-dundee.org.uk/ ■

have also got a chance to hear the Christian message.

The need of discipleship among international Christian people

In recent decades, God has raised up many Christians, especially in Africa and Asia. As a result, some international people from those countries would already be from a Christian background when they arrive. It is a glimpse of heaven when worshipping with a multicultural congregation. However, culture shock exerts a huge influence on international people when it comes to going to a local church. The different ways of interacting with people, the different styles of worship, prayer meetings and the Bible study are just a few barriers for international Christians from different church backgrounds.

There is a need to create a welcoming and friendly environment where people from different cultural backgrounds could freely worship God. There is also a need to strengthen the faith of international people to continue to attend church despite all the difficulties they face. A gospel-centred and welcoming church with the space to embrace difference is core to growing and encouraging Jesus’ followers from all over the world.

JOANNA AND JONNIE ARMITAGE

I HAVE been coming along to CBC for over 20 years, and before that attended Hillbank Evangelical Church with my parents and my brothers. I became a Christian at a young age and my summers usually consisted of church camps with the whole

family. As I got older, like many teenagers, going to church was not something I wanted to broadcast and unfortunately, my faith was not my priority for a number of years. God is in control, however, and during a visit to CBC for a dedication service I

spotted some friends from university and I started to return to church on a more regular basis, becoming more involved and making friends. Jonnie and I were married in 2015 and he became a Christian a year later after going along to the Christianity Explored course led by Jim Turrent.

In 2017 we were blessed with our wee boy, Theo, and then our little lockdown baby, Alice, came along in 2020. The journey to become a family of 4 was not always easy, and there were times when we just had to trust in ▶



God’s plan for our family, even when things were difficult. Our lives now are filled with early mornings and the standard chaos that comes with having children – every day is certainly an adventure!

This verse is a favourite of mine that has encouraged us throughout the years:

‘But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.’ ISAIAH 40:31.

As well as raising our “little blessings”, I’m an English teacher in a Catholic secondary school which has its challenges but, unlike in other schools, I am able to discuss my faith and beliefs with pupils (who always have a million questions!).

The last year has been an exciting one for the family as Jonnie opened his own restaurant just over a year ago. Although it seemed like a risky time to embark on a new business, he has enjoyed a really successful year and the restaurant continues to do well.

Currently my Sunday mornings are often spent on crèche duty, which is loads of fun (in between tears, toilet

trips and tantrums!). We have a great team of helpers and the children make us laugh every week. Alice is nearly 2 so she is beginning to settle into crèche after a strange start to her life during Covid. Her favourite thing about crèche is snack, closely followed by playing with the kitchen (she takes after her dad!).

Meanwhile, Theo, who is nearly 5, attends Sparklers which he absolutely loves. I cannot thank the team enough for the hard work they put into each Sunday morning and the love they show to the children. Theo is always keen to come to church – long may this continue!

Jonnie is perhaps best known around the church for his curry-making ability. So far, with the help of his partner-in-crime, Colin Watson, they have organised two curry nights: one for the dads and a another one for the mums. Both events have been well attended and it has been a real blessing for parents to enjoy some “chill” time after being deprived of socialising for so many months.

We look forward to what God has in store for us over the next few years and we appreciate the prayer and support of the church family. ■

ALLISON MCMAHON



Hi, my name is Allison McMahon (Alli for short). It was back in 1976 that I gave my life to the Lord, although from an early age the conviction was there but I ignored it. In 1976 I was working in a special needs wee village called Hansel Village in Ayrshire, mainly working with adults. Bible Club Movement workers from Linwood faithfully came to the village each Thursday evening; the folks at the village loved singing choruses, hymns and flannelgraph bible stories. As a carer I often sat in on these times, when I was challenged about where my life was heading. About a year after I had given my life to the Lord I was challenged to be baptised as being obedient to Christ.

In the latter part of 1977, the Lord led me, through various circumstances and providential care, to Bible College in Glasgow. My learning was more to do with people than Biblical Theology, in hindsight. Many invaluable lessons were learnt, especially being broken and remade in the image of Christ, and the on-going journey.

In 1980 I found myself moving to Dundee; 1982 started my nursing career, married in 1988 and slipped into a life of selfishness with my hubby. I had married a non-Christian and constantly felt the pull away from my Christian friends and worshipping. In 1990 when our daughter came along, my husband wanted our daughter brought up in the Roman Catholic faith to which I strongly disagreed with. Hence 'religion' was never really mentioned after that.

In 2010 a friend who was wheelchair bound asked me if I'd go to Keswick Convention with her and do her daily dressings and help her where needed. It was there at the Convention that I ▶

*"Come thou fount of every blessing"
"Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it.
Prone to leave the God I love
Take my heart, oh, take and seal it
With Thy Spirit from above
Rescued thus from sin and danger
Purchased by the Saviours blood
May I walk on earth a stranger
As a son and heir of God"
A prayer that is close to my
heart each day.*

heard the Lord's voice asking me to return to Him.

On return to Dundee, I was invited to CBC and never looked back, I became a member 2 or 3 years later, I think.

Over the pandemic time God has been showing me, myself and showing my Saviour and the grace that has been lavished freely towards me. ■

NEWS FROM KEITH AND JOYCE WOOD — ENGLISH CORNER

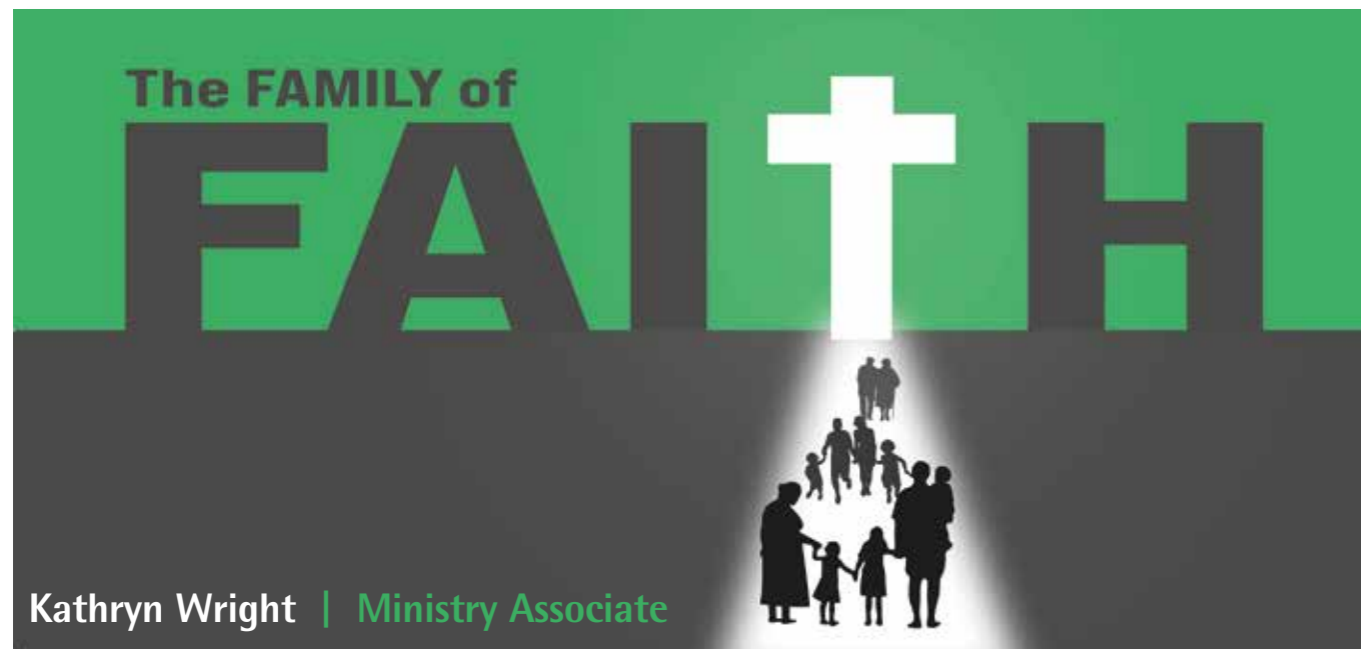
Editor's Note: Keith and Joyce are retired OMF missionaries whom Central used to support. It was lovely to have a 'catch up' with them recently when they visited Central.



WE are continuing to support the ministry of welcoming and befriending Chinese academic visitors, known as 'English Corner'. We keep in touch with over 400 university lecturers back in China. Covid made English Corner move online every Tuesday, but numbers are much smaller. Joyce has focused instead on one friend in China and has been reading the Bible with her regularly. Pray that her faith will grow.

As to the future, who knows what will happen to English Corner. Our friend and colleague Zia (in her 50s) went to be with the Lord earlier this year. She taught us what it means to die well – her faith and trust were inspirational. Pray for husband Mark who leads English Corner. ▶

18 months ago, we moved into a terraced home in the centre of Marple and with a new home have come new opportunities. We have enjoyed getting to know new neighbours and being much nearer the church and shops. Joyce helps with a toddler group, and Keith helps with a drop-in centre/job club. We also co-lead a home group. Our eight grandchildren are a joy. We meet Cerys' children from school most weeks, and our two sons live near Cambridge. God is Good! ■



INCLUSION, tolerance, and diversity are ideals we hear much of but are somehow always so very difficult to achieve; inclusivity becomes forced and exclusive, tolerance is something to be endured, and diversity somehow leads into division. The family of faith is an extraordinary gift that turns this all upside down, a visible manifestation of reconciliation, of grace-filled relationships marked by forgiveness and a sacrificial love that seeks the good of other over self as we live in and for our great redeemer. Jesus told his disciples that they would be marked out as his by the love they show one another (JOHN 13:34-35), a love often shown imperfectly but nonetheless unique.¹

Paul writes to the Galatian believers emphasizing the radical nature of Gospel unity:

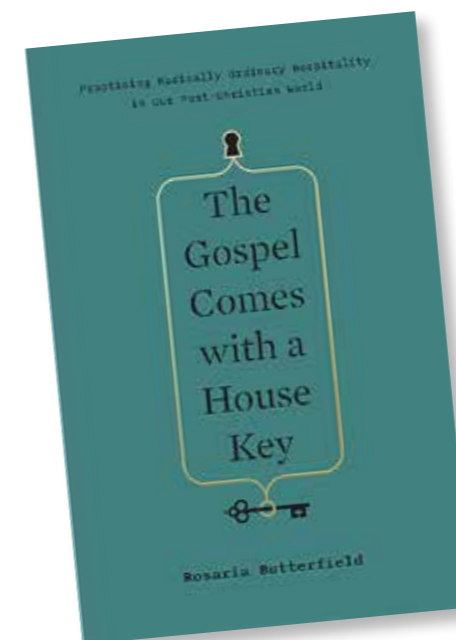
GALATIANS 3:27-29 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

He doesn't dismiss the distinctions between them, his point isn't that the differences in social class, sex, or cultural and religious background are to be ignored or done away with but that these factors no longer divide. The fellowship of God's people is now defined in Christ. Our differences, be they gifting, marital status, or position, are not incidental but purposeful parts of God's building of his Kingdom and integral components of the body of Christ that no longer separate but work in concert as the family of faith living to the glory of God (1 CORINTHIANS). ▶

Within the body of Christ family is given fullness of expression as part of the greater picture of the Kingdom of God. Marriage pointing to the ultimate covenant relationship of Christ and his people, the single people whose lives embody the supreme worth of Christ, parents enacting the nurturing care of the Father for his children. The union of the Holy Spirit gloriously and intricately binding together situations and circumstances as the sufficiency of Christ is worked out through the relationships of his people.

I don't know about you, but I don't want inclusion, my desire is so much deeper than that, it is for belonging. I don't seek tolerance but something so much greater, being in loving relationships of shared discipleship to Christ, not only surrounded by those at the same age and stage, or with shared cultural history or socio-economic background, but in fellowship with the rich variety of people with whom I am united by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. As Paul, single and childless, addresses his co-worker Timothy the depth of relationship is evident. Timothy is his *"Beloved and faithful child in the Lord"* 1 CORINTHIANS 4:17; *"Brother"* 2 CORINTHIANS 1:1; COLOSSIANS 1:1; 1 THESSALONIANS 3:2; *"Son"* 1 TIMOTHY 1:2; 2 TIMOTHY 1:2. How thankful I am to be part of this church where I am not only witness to, but part of such relationships. ■

¹ John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. (35) By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."



HOSPITALITY

Fiona Mackay

'Before the pandemic, the Elders and Deacons read and discussed a book called, *"The Gospel Comes with A House Key"* written by Rosaria Butterfield. It was challenging. I recently read an article entitled, "Hospitality – What, where, when, why" which I found challenging and practical. It was written by my daughter Kirsty Doyle.'

This is the link to the article.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a3wdiPnyYSGGBi32S3muBIw00YD9-TGC/edit?usp=sharing&touid=117254377691101427857&trtpof=true&tsd=true>

CHURCH CONTACTS

JIM TURRENT

Lead Pastor

jim.turrent@btinternet.com

07946 254405

STUART KEIR

Pastor

pastor.stuart@gmail.com

07887 370505

COLIN WATSON

Children and Families Coordinator

childrenandfamiliescoordinator@centraldundee.com

07826 191173

KAREN KEIR

Women's Pastoral Coordinator

keirkaren@hotmail.com

07586 329449

ANDY HOLT

Pastor in Training

andy.holt@cantab.net

07932 336416449

RUTH TAGGART

Ministry Associate

ruth.taggart14@gmail.com

07738 112878

KATHRYN WRIGHT

Ministry Associate

k.a.wright@yahoo.co.uk

07800 865668

BRYAN BENNETT

Church Secretary

secretary@centraldundee.com

STEVE LATTO

Church Treasurer

treasurer@centraldundee.com

CENTRAL BAPTIST
CHURCH OFFICE

9A Ward Road, Dundee DD1 1LP

office@centraldundee.com

01382 201255

CENTRAL†
BAPTIST CHURCH DUNDEE

www.centraldundee.com