

# THE LINK



*“Glorify*

the Lord with me, and  
let us exalt his name  
together”. Psalm 34



**IT'S A PRIVILEGE** to introduce the latest edition of The Link! We are grateful to the production team for their efforts.

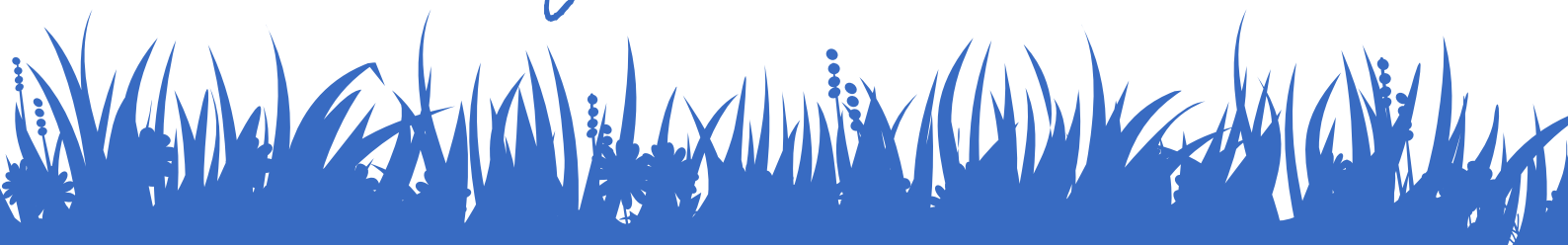
In each edition we try to capture something of the breadth of ministry of Central, and this edition carries on that tradition. Please continue to pray that God would give the increase.

In all we do we want to glorify God in the lives we live and in the service we render. Psalm 34 says “Glorify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together”. Let’s discover afresh the joy in doing that very thing together as we lift up the name of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit He has sent.

Yours in Him,

*Jim*

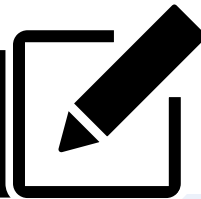
**Jim Turrent**, Lead Pastor



# Contents

- Page 3 - [Office Bearers Who's Who](#)
- Page 4 - [Pastoral Care Crosslands Module](#)
- Page 5 - ['Raising Kids For Christ' Conference Report](#)
- Page 6 - [Youth Ministry Update](#)
- Page 7 - [Young Adults' Ministry Update](#)
- Page 8/9 - [Women's Ministry Update](#)
- Page 9 - [Engage](#)
- Page 10 & 11 - [Member Files: Kenny And Moira McLaren](#)
- Page 12 - [Mission Sunday 2024](#)
- Page 13 - [Lochee Baptist Chapel Update](#)
- Page 14 - [Carnoustie Baptist Church Update](#)
- Page 15 - [Navigating Faith: Roopa Isaac](#)
- Page 16 - ['Relationships: A Mess Worth Making' Book Review](#)
- Page 17 - [Podcast Review](#)
- Page 18 - [C.T. Studd Poem - Only One Life](#)
- Page 19 - ['Snapshots Of Christians Of The Past' - Mary Macdonald](#)
- Page 20 - [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. 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](mailto: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](http://centraldundee.com/resources) or click on the link on the Home page.

The Link has been compiled by our magazine team and designed by Mark Thomas.

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

# Office Bearers Who's Who ? ? ?

By **Iain Belford**, Church Secretary

**FOR THOSE OF YOU NOT AWARE**, Bryan stepped down from his role as church secretary in the summer, and I was elected to take his place. Let me take this opportunity to thank Bryan for his many years of excellent service to the church – he's a hard act to follow!

If you haven't met me yet, I'm married to Katherine and we have three children – Isla, Abigail and Harry. I've attended Central since 2007, and have served in many ministries now – from the youth ministry many years ago to more recently the eldership. Outside of Central I'm also associated with Compass Christian Centre and Scripture Union.

As you can imagine, with three young children and a demanding job, the role of church secretary is changing. Peter Inglis has now stepped in to be assistant secretary and Scott Headley as assistant treasurer to take his place. Bryan is still 'around' guiding Peter and me with the ropes, for which we are very grateful! It's been a busy start to the role, with the Dundee Active Travel proposal as well as the general day-to-day tasks. Please do remember Peter and me in prayer as we take on these roles



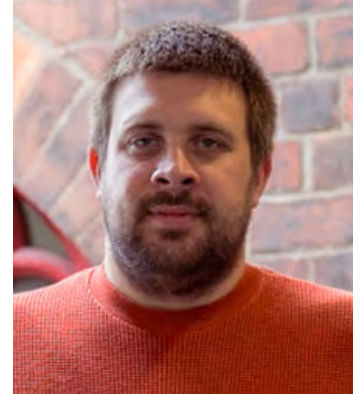
Pictured: Iain, Katherine & their children



# Pastoral Care Crosslands Module

By **Scott Headley**, Assistant Treasurer

**I HAVE RECENTLY** had the privilege to take part in the latest endeavour of the Growing Leaders group within Central Baptist and I have thoroughly enjoyed it. A small group of people within the church have been studying a Crosslands module on 'Pastoral Care' guided and supported by Stuart and Karen Keir. At first I was hesitant to join the group; however, I am very glad I took the plunge. Alongside my wife Jenna, we worked our way through the 9 sections of the course and we both hugely benefitted from setting aside the time to complete this module.



There was something special about being able to do this as a couple and wrestle with some of the content together as well as being able to come together as a cohort to discuss the module as we went through it.

The course was made up of 9 sections, which took between half an hour and an hour each to complete. They were made up of a mixture of short videos, text and reflection questions, and it was a great opportunity to dive deeper into an issue that I have a great interest in and that we are all in need of at various stages of our lives. It was so encouraging going through this as a group of brothers and sisters with the same heart, to love each other well. We were able to increase our understanding as a collective and encourage each other to put in the work to complete the work. I really appreciated the diversity of the group of people studying together as everyone came with their unique perspective, which helped to deepen my learning.

I would highly recommend the Growing Leaders group to anyone who wants to go deeper in their faith; it runs several times a year with different topics explored each time and I, for one, will be joining in for the next instalment. Yes, it takes time. Yes, it takes commitment. But yes, it is worth it.

Find out more about Crosslands at:  
[crosslands.training](https://crosslands.training)





# 'Raising kids for Christ'

## CONFERENCE REPORT

**ON SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY** 42 people gathered to hear Mel Lacy, the Executive Director of Growing Young Disciples. GYD is a charitable organisation devoted to promoting and supporting Biblical children's and youth ministry. She led us through a programme covering topics such as:



- Helping our children and young people understand who they are.
- Helping our children and young people understand and engage with others.
- Helping our children and young people understand and engage with the world.

Most of the people who attended were from Central Baptist, but 40% came from other churches in the Tayside and Fife area (there was one keen person from Shetland). Feedback from attendees was very positive, and Mel reciprocated this sentiment complimenting me on the quality of comments and insights that were shared from 'the floor'.

If you weren't able to come along, there is possibly another opportunity to hear Mel speak in Dundee later in the year. St Peter's Free Church hope to host Mel in November 2024 (as soon as I hear anything I will let folk know!). We also hope to have Mel back to Central to help us understand other issues confronting our children and young people.

Three comments made to me the next day sum up how things went:

- **"It wasn't what I was expecting ... but in a good way! I learned so much"**
- **"We didn't stop talking about it all night!"**
- **"I came away thinking, crikey!"**

Please continue to pray for those who support out children and young people.



By **Colin Watson**, Children And Families Coordinator

# Youth Ministry Update

By **Michael & Abby Adamson**

**WE HAD THE JOY** and privilege of watching four young people being baptised in the last term of 2023. Baptismal services are always powerful, when we hear people's testimonies of how they have come to faith in the Lord Jesus. This time was no different, as we heard how these young people had been led to Jesus each in their own way, recognising their need of forgiveness and placing their trust in Him as their Saviour. It has been wonderful watching them grow in their faith over the last few years, and to see them take this step of obedience by being baptised.



In November 2023 we had our youth weekend away at the Compass Christian Centre in Glenshee. We had an amazing 28 young people attend. They enjoyed various games, quizzes and activities, as well as Bible teaching, discussion and prayer time. Our teacher for the weekend was Alwis and he spoke on Psalms 23 and 121. Through these, Alwis taught us about the name of the Lord and how it is described. He is our protector, comforter, helper and keeper. He nourishes us, refreshes us, and brings us great and everlasting joy. The discussion of these themes over 4 sessions was rich. It is heartwarming seeing young people grapple with this kind of teaching and increase their knowledge of who God is.

Our Sunday YF sessions at the beginning of this term will be looking at the spiritual discipline of prayer: What is it? How do we do it? Why do we do it? It's something Christians of all ages struggle with but can be particularly daunting for young people. We will be using the Lord's prayer as our template for developing an understanding of prayer. We want to encourage our young people that this is something they can do, and should build a habit of doing at an early age.

We are thankful as always to our fantastic team of leaders, and to all the parents who have been so supportive and encouraging. Let's keep going! "...in the Lord your labour is not in vain."  
(1 Corinthians 15:58)



# Young Adults' Ministry Update

By **Alwis Rajendran**, Pastor in Training

**THIS ACADEMIC YEAR**, some of the students and young adults at Central Baptist Church have been meeting on Sunday afternoons to study the book of Exodus. The story of the first half of Exodus is famous, among believers and non-believers, fulfilling part of the purpose of the book, as God Himself says to Pharoah “For this purpose I raised you up, to show my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth” (Exodus 9:16 ESV).



The story of Exodus is the story of God revealing Himself to His people, to His enemies and to the whole world. I think it's fair to say that all of us, leaders included, assumed that we understood the famous story and its meaning as we began our studies. Although we weren't off by much, I don't think any of us were ready for the depth of God's self-revelation in this book. It has significantly helped us to better understand the unique character, power and glory of the God we worship as Christians.

One student, Jenna Parkhill, said “We see how God is actively involved in history, how He hears our prayers, answers them and saves them.” In Exodus, we witness “God continually keeping His promises” giving us a deeper appreciation of the same God fully revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. The rich insight in Exodus has helped us see Jesus' greater rescue achieved on the cross.

For students, like Jenna, these studies have been a time to “rejoice in the truth together and it is so encouraging during university life when life is full of the unknown. It's such a blessing to know the God moving them is the same God moving in our lives now.”

**“For this purpose I raised you up, to show my power,  
so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth”**

**Exodus 9:16 ESV**



# Women's Ministry Update

By **Karen Keir**, Women's Pastoral Coordinator

**RIGHT AT THE BEGINNING** of the letter to the Philippians, Paul tells the church at Philippi "I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now". This sense of partnership in the gospel has particularly resonated with me as I think back to one of the Women's events we had at the end of the year.



As I was planning what kind of events to run for women at the beginning of 2023, I wanted to provide opportunities for outreach as well as opportunities for Christian growth and so decided on a Christmas Craft Night. This was an opportunity for women to invite friends and family along to a fun night where they could "have a go" at some simple Christmas crafts, enjoy some Christmas-themed goodies and hear something of the wonder and meaning of the very first Christmas.

As it was something new, I was slightly apprehensive about it. However, as I began to make plans I was so encouraged with the enthusiasm and commitment of the women in our church.

On the night it was such a joy to see the hall filled, and especially with so many people who wouldn't usually come to a church event. The craft leaders prepared and led so well, making everyone feel welcome and confident to try something new. The welcome team, those who provided and prepared refreshments and those who decorated the hall created an environment which beautifully set the scene for the evening and so by the time I was to share the Christmas story, everyone was relaxed and open to listening.



A huge thanks to everyone who was willing to take part in the planning and running of the event, and to all who attended and invited friends and family along.

**When I remember it, I can say with Paul...**

**“I pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel”.**



# Engage Update

By **Andrew Martin**

**ENGAGE IS A MINISTRY** for those in the church family in their 20s and 30s that 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.



In October we gathered for food and fellowship after the church conference. This was a great opportunity to reflect on the day and spend some time together. Early in December we held a Christmas event, and most recently we held a Burns supper. We have found it to be a real encouragement, meeting with newcomers to the church family and building closer ties with those who have been at Central for a number of years.

**We would ask for your continued prayers for growth in this ministry:**

1. To continue to build God-centred relationships within our congregation.
2. That we would seek His will as we move forward.

If you would like to get involved, you would be very welcome to come along to one of our future events. The next one will be taking place on May 4. We will post details in the bulletin closer to the time and on the church Facebook page. If you would like to hear any more about Engage, then feel free to get in touch with Nicola or myself.

# Member Files



## Kenny & Moira McLaren

The Link asked Kenny and Moira McLaren a few questions for this edition's Member File feature.

### 1. PLEASE TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELVES.

We are both born and bred Dundonians. We met when Kenny was almost 18 and Moira almost 16. At that youthful age everyone said "it won't last".

After a 5-year courtship we proved them wrong by getting married in April 1975. We have a son and daughter and three grandchildren.

Kenny: I left Morgan Academy to join NCR as an electronics technician and went on to work with several companies as an engineer and latterly a service delivery manager, in particular problem management. I took early retirement in 2016.

Moira: I started work with Thomas Justice & Sons and trained to become a seamstress in soft furnishings. After the family arrived, I gave up work before later working as a care assistant in nursing homes, a job which I enjoyed.

### 2. HOW DID YOU BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

Moira: I made a Christian profession over 30 years ago and was baptised in the Full Gospel Church in Dundee, where my sister attended. However, I did not progress in the Christian life and despite my sister's pleas did not return to church. She constantly prayed for us and asked her church fellowship, which now was Life Church Arbroath, to pray also. In 2014 she invited me to the Christmas meal at the church. I agreed to go but declared I would not be going to a service. God had other plans! I started to attend regularly and read my Bible. One day while reading the Bible at home I was convicted of my sin and broke down in uncontrollable sobbing. I was conscious of the presence of warmth above my head, sweeping down over my whole body in what I can only describe as wave after wave. Then I knew that God in His grace had forgiven me and called me back to Himself.

Kenny: I was from a Church of Scotland background and over the years, despite not attending church, I always had a hankering to go back or to find a suitable place of worship. When Moira said she wanted to go to Life Church I decided to go too. It was there that I became a Christian and was baptised in 2015. We worshipped there for 4 years.

### 3. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ATTENDING CENTRAL BAPTIST?

We wanted to have a church in Dundee and joined Hope United, but it did not open up after the pandemic. During this time we had been watching services online and we both kept looking at Central Baptist. We attended an evening service one Sunday and we both knew straight away this was where we should be. We became members in 2021.

### 4. WHAT AREAS OF CHURCH LIFE ARE YOU INVOLVED IN?

Kenny: I joined the Property Team to assist Andy Calder, and when he moved to Australia I took on Andy's role as property co-ordinator. I have also been doing the hall bookings and am one of the Communion servers. We are trying to bring the property team back up to its former number to help spread the workload. **If someone reading this feels this is a way in which they can serve, please speak to me.**

Moira: I was invited to join the Welcome Team, which I enjoy. This is also helping me to get to know more people. We both attend the Growth Group led by Colin Watson and find this helpful.

### 5. DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE CHRISTIAN BOOK APART FROM THE BIBLE?

Kenny: I enjoyed reading "John Knox: Fearless Faith" by Steven Lawson.

Moira: I use the John MacArthur study Bible which has been a great resource for me and two of his books I would recommend are "Saved without a doubt" and "The Gospel according to Jesus". Being an avid reader, I enjoy many Christian books but would also highlight "All things for good" by Thomas Watson.

# Mission Sunday 2024



By **Matt Lock**, Elder and Chair of Central's Missionary Support Group

**HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED**, why do we bother about world mission when there are so many people here in Dundee who don't yet know about Jesus? Have you thought, why do we pray for missionaries in church? Have you wondered why should we bother sending missionaries to other countries?

In his book about world mission, *Let the Nations Be Glad*, John Piper explains that God is passionate about mission and if we are Christians, mission should be part of who we are and not an optional extra to our church life. Piper describes how mission means witnessing to those around us and also to those further afield, as we are sent to point people to God, sharing his joy and love and living our whole lives for His glory!

It is great that each year we can take time to focus on world mission, because as a church we are committed to supporting and praying for those serving as missionaries, as they share the good news of Jesus. We can also remember that God is working across the world and in different countries; people worship and praise God in different ways. With such a range of nationalities in our church, it was a joyful experience to be led in praise with songs from Africa and be reminded how in heaven, a great multitude from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages will be worshipping God.

As we reflect on our Mission Sunday, we need to remember that world mission is not just something to think about once a year, but it is part of our calling as believers. We are called to pray for and support those serving as missionaries. We are called to follow Christ, wherever he leads us – even if that is to another part of the world, where people so desperately need to hear the good news of the gospel.

If you would like to find out more about how you can pray for our missionaries, how you can be involved in world mission, or if God is calling you to serve Him in another country, please let us know – we would love to hear from you!



Get in touch with the Missionary Support Group: [mission@centraldundee.com](mailto:mission@centraldundee.com)



By **Cath Dickson**

**THERE IS PLENTY** going on here in Lochee. We've been encouraged by some new members joining us, and the changed format of the Sunday school before the services as a time of discussion about apologetics topics is working well to incorporate our young people's questions. Our regular socials, aimed at families, have continued. Last term we held a board games night and a party for Reformation Day. We try to bring along non-Christian friends to these events as an introduction to the church family. It was a joy to see many children attend the Reformation Day party, and much fun was had playing games and eating party food. A few friends have been coming regularly. Pray for us as we seek to witness to them, particularly for our upcoming Easter event. There are some with whom we are personally studying the Bible, notably our Muslim neighbours, for whom we'd appreciate prayer.

The carol service is always a highlight for us. We handed out flyers while singing carols, and knocked on many doors. It's a joy seeing the church lit up with fairy lights and celebrating in this way together. We're thankful for all who came and heard the gospel. There were some encouraging connections made through this. We're planning to knock on more doors again soon and build on this. Our toddlers' group has been really busy. As other groups have closed in the area recently, we've acquired new members. It's an enjoyable and relaxed time together. The children are listening well to the Bible stories. Pray for deepening relationships within this group. Thank you for your continued support and prayers!



# Update and Prayer Points

By **Pastor John Toller**

**2023 ENDED WITH SOME EXCITING PROGRESS** on our building project, as we have had the heating and lighting in the main worship area upgraded, and the windows will be replaced soon. Please pray as we need around another £13,000 to complete the new front entrance – but already those coming into the building, members and visitors alike, have noticed the difference and observed how much warmer and welcoming the building feels. Of course, we don't just want people to feel more welcome; pray that they would encounter Jesus! We have seen some folks coming along to the church from both the Toddlers group and the Manna Café, and we give thanks to God for this and pray for more fruit.

We've also seen God's provision with our general fund, although this is still well below the recommended level; we'd appreciate your prayer here too, but we are so aware of how God has always faithfully provided for this work in Carnoustie. As our 13th year(!) comes to an end, we're encouraged by the growth in numbers and, more so, in faith and love – and we're excited to see what God's plans are for us over this next year.



# Navigating Faith:

My Journey With The Navigators



By **Roopa Isaac**

**MY JOURNEY WITH THE NAVIGATORS** has been a profoundly enriching experience, deepening my faith and fostering spiritual growth. As an international person living in Scotland, I consider this journey akin to international mission work, engaging with diverse cultures and perspectives within a global community of believers. One aspect of my experience with The Navigators that stands out is the emphasis on intentional discipleship. Through mentorship and small group discussions, I've been challenged to delve deeper into Scripture, wrestle with tough questions and live out my faith authentically.

These relationships have provided invaluable support and encouragement in my walk with God. It has been great serving in the Navigators local ministry in Dundee. Engaging in outreach initiatives has allowed me to witness firsthand the transformative power of God's love in diverse contexts. These experiences have reaffirmed my passion for sharing the gospel with others and expanded my understanding of living out my faith practically. Throughout my journey with The Navigators, I've learned to surrender control and trust in God's plan, even amid uncertainties.

As I continue to navigate the path of faith, I am grateful for the opportunity to grow, serve and learn alongside a community of believers. In closing, I am reminded of the words of Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." May we continue to trust in God's guidance as we journey together in faith.

Find out more about navigators at:  
[navigators.co.uk](https://navigators.co.uk)

navigators



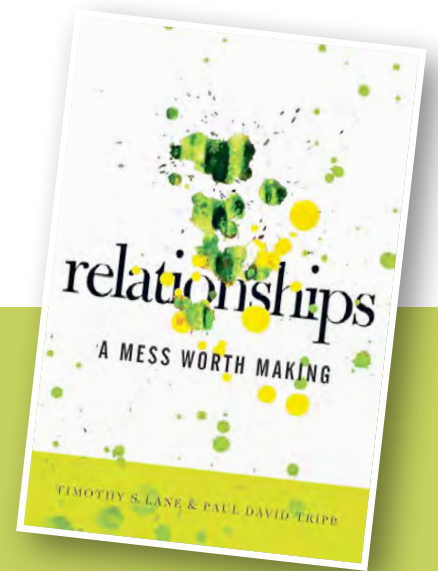
**Editor's Note:** Roopa now has a tutoring position at the International College within the University of Dundee.



# Book Review

## “Relationships – A mess worth making”

by Timothy S Lane & Paul David Tripp



**RELATIONSHIPS ARE THE FABRIC OF LIFE**, sometimes they can be good and sometimes they can be difficult, and often can be experienced as both in the same day! In this very practical book, Lane and Tripp examine the messy nature of human relationships from the perspective of God’s purpose and design for them. They begin with the premise that God is the author of all relationships, the only perfect model for relationships and the one who can redeem, rescue and change us so that our relationships can also be redeemed, rescued and changed.

Their goal in the writing of this book is to look honestly at the difficulties we face in our relationships with one another as sinners in a sinful world, so we can grow in our ability to develop redemptive relationships as we experience the power of God’s grace in our own lives.

I have found this book extremely helpful both personally and in ministry life, and would highly recommend it.

By **Karen Keir**, Women’s Pastoral Coordinator

# Podcast Review



## ‘The Family Discipleship Podcast’

**AS THE MOTHER OF YOUNG CHILDREN**, I find it difficult to find time to read and study God’s word. I used to love reading books and articles on theology and apologetics, but these days absorbing a single verse feels like an achievement! Podcast listening has been a really helpful way for me to reorient my mind toward the things of God during this season of distraction, and has given me a reminder of the global Christian family to which I belong. This is especially comforting during the long nights feeding a young baby. The audio format is great because it is hands free and doesn’t model too much screen time to my daughter. It can be on in the background while we play, drive, cook and clean, giving my mind something to chew over as we go about our day.



As missionaries with Navigators UK, we have a real passion for all of life discipleship, but are newcomers to the field of family discipleship. As such, we are always hungry for good tools and have found ‘The Family Discipleship Podcast’ helpful. The podcast seeks to support parents in “the critically important but mostly ordinary work of discipling their families”. Hosted by Adam Griffin, a pastor in Dallas, his wife Chelsea, and their friend and youth pastor Cassie Bryant, it has a warm and encouraging tone. The openness and honesty of the hosts, along with their use of humour, makes listening feel like spending time with friends.

The podcast has covered a range of important issues relevant to parents of children of all ages: from navigating theological conversations (e.g. explaining the trinity to young children), to discussing matters of cultural concern at different stages of life (e.g. talking to your child about sex or Santa Claus). Such discussions are always steeped in scriptural context, with the show taking Deuteronomy 6 as its mission statement. There is an emphasis on discipling our children’s character (e.g. there are episodes relating to discipline, but the emphasis here is on heart change rather than behaviour modification).

The FDP philosophy of leveraging the time and opportunities God gives us with our kids lends itself to two ways of chunking up time: moments and milestones. Through this framework, the hosts describe the importance of pointing the whole of our child’s life to Christ, while placing an emphasis on the power of special times in our children’s lives and in our unique family, such as birthdays, during which we can pause to remember the Lord’s goodness and His work in us.

We know that the Lord places us in families for His good purposes. Although we ought not to be intimidated by the task, we have a responsibility to equip ourselves for this work that the Lord has prepared for us. As Adam soberingly states, “If we are not discipling our kids; someone else will.” We are on an amazing journey with our children, in which we are privileged to play a unique role in shaping them as young men and women of God, moulded in the cast of Christ. They will, God willing, outlast us and continue His service long after we are gone. Listening to this podcast may be a helpful way to begin thinking through the implications of this for your family.

By **Shona Wittmann**



# ONLY ONE LIFE

C.T. Studd (1860-1931)

Two little lines I heard one day, Traveling along life's busy way; Bringing conviction to my heart,  
And from my mind would not depart; Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for  
Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one, Soon will its fleeting hours be done; Then, in 'that day' my Lord to  
meet, And stand before His Judgment seat; Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done  
for Christ will last.

Only one life, the still small voice, Gently pleads for a better choice Bidding me selfish aims to  
leave, And to God's holy will to cleave; Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for  
Christ will last.

Only one life, a few brief years, Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears; Each with its days I  
must fulfill, living for self or in His will; Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for  
Christ will last.

When this bright world would tempt me sore, When Satan would a victory score; When self  
would seek to have its way, Then help me Lord with joy to say; Only one life, 'twill soon be past,  
Only what's done for Christ will last.

Give me Father, a purpose deep, In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep; Faithful and true what e'er  
the strife, Pleasing Thee in my daily life; Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for  
Christ will last.

Oh let my love with fervor burn, And from the world now let me turn; Living for Thee, and Thee  
alone, Bringing Thee pleasure on Thy throne; Only one life, "twill soon be past, Only what's  
done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one, Now let me say, "Thy  
will be done"; And when at last I'll hear the call, I  
know I'll say 'twas worth it all"; Only one life, 'twill  
soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

(Pastor Emeritus Angus Morrison quoted from this poem when he preached at Central on Sunday 1 October 2023. The full text of the poem has been included in the magazine at the request of a member.)



The first in an occasional series on...

# 'Snapshots Of Christians Of The Past'

## **Mary Macdonald Nee Macdougall (1789–1872)**

### 'Child In The Manger'

Scotland didn't celebrate Christmas in the past – so no carols – none, that is, but one 'Child in the manger'. It was written on Mull as a poem by Mary McDonald in her native Gaelic as she sat at her spinning wheel. Mary was of Baptist persuasion and knew persecution along with fellow Baptists during the 1830s: a despised group, they were forced to worship in a cave off Ardalanish beach which is still known as Baptists' Cave. Mary's poem was set to a traditional, local melody which was given the name Bunesan after her home village.

Mary's younger brother, Duncan MacDougall (1799–1850), was a poet too. He went as schoolteacher to Tiree in 1824, where he also taught the Scriptures until the established church asked him to leave. Additionally, he was an evangelist and became the first pastor of the newly formed Baptist church there from 1836. Like his sister Mary, Duncan's poems were set to traditional tunes and sung in the Baptist churches which were forming in the Highlands at that time.

Mary's poem has survived thanks to a collector of Gaelic hymns, Lachlan Macbean. Macbean visited Mull in 1888 and Mary's poem was still being sung in the Baptist church there.

He translated it as follows:

**Child in the manger, infant of Mary, Outcast and Stranger, Lord of us all, Child  
Who inherits all our transgressions, All our demerits upon Him fall.**

**Once, the most holy Child of salvation Gently and lowly lived here below. Now  
as our glorious mighty Redeemer, See Him victorious over each foe.**

**Prophets foretold Him, Infant of wonder; Angels behold Him on His throne.  
Worthy our Savior of all our praises; Happy forever are His own.**

By **Jane Scott**

# Contacts

**Lead Pastor** – Jim Turrent  
[jim.turrent@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.turrent@btinternet.com)  
Mobile: 07946 254405

**Pastor** – Stuart Keir  
[pastor.stuart@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.stuart@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 07887 370505

**Children and Families Coordinator** – Colin Watson  
[childrenandfamiliescoordinator@centraldundee.com](mailto:childrenandfamiliescoordinator@centraldundee.com)  
Mobile: 07826 191173

**Women's Pastoral Coordinator** – Karen Keir  
[keirkaren@hotmail.com](mailto:keirkaren@hotmail.com)  
Mobile: 07586 329449

**Pastor in Training** – Alwis Rajendran  
[alwisrajendran7@gmail.com](mailto:alwisrajendran7@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 07772 622859

**Leader in Training** – Kathryn Wright  
[k.a\\_wright@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:k.a_wright@yahoo.co.uk)  
Mobile: 07800 865668

**Church Secretary** – Iain Belford  
[secretary@centraldundee.com](mailto:secretary@centraldundee.com)

**Church Treasurer** – Steve Latto  
[treasurer@centraldundee.com](mailto:treasurer@centraldundee.com)

**Central Baptist Church Dundee**  
Church Office  
9A Ward Road  
Dundee DD1 1LP

**Tel:** 01382 201255 **Email:** [office@centraldundee.com](mailto:office@centraldundee.com)

**Website:** [www.centraldundee.com](http://www.centraldundee.com)

**CENTRAL**†  
BAPTIST CHURCH DUNDEE



@centralbaptistchurchdundee

Central Baptist Church Dundee is a **Scottish Charity, SC050871**