

## Morning Services 10.30am

At the High School

Date	Subject	Speaker
1 Jan	DBC ALL AGE SERVICE	Rev Alistair Purss Rev David White
8 Jan IP Communion	DBC ANNUAL COVENANT AND COMMISSIONING SERVICE	Rev Alistair Purss Rev David White
<b>'LOVE WITH SKIN ON' SERIES ON CONGREGATIONAL PASTORAL CARE</b>		
15 Jan	Love with Skin On: Caring Luke 10:25-37	Rev Alistair Purss
22 Jan Communion	Love with Skin On: Loving Mark 6:31-44	Rev David White
29 Jan	Love with Skin On: Journeying Luke 24:13-35	Rev Alistair Purss
5 Feb Communion	GUEST SERVICE - A ROCHA	Chris Naylor
12 Feb IP	DBC ALL AGE SERVICE Love with Skin On: Living - John 5:1-15	Rev Alistair Purss
19 Feb Communion	Love with Skin On: Healing Luke 13:10-17	Rev David White
26 Feb	Love with Skin On: Connecting Acts 3:1-10	Rev Alistair Purss
5 Mar Communion	DBC Compassion Service (YP & Children in for 45 minutes)	Don Esson
<b>'THE TIME HAS COME' A SERIES FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN</b>		
12 Mar IP	The Time has come John 13	Rev David White
19 Mar Communion	The Time has come John 14	Rev Alistair Purss
26 Mar	The Time has come John 15	Rev David White

### Important Contact Details

Alistair Purss	Senior Pastor	07882698428
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Church Office	Mon—Fri am	01387 268926
Lesley Mackay	Church Secretary	01387 247456
Ian Penn	Treasurer	01387 263242

## Evening Service 6.30pm

Newall Terrace

Date	Subject	Speaker
1 Jan	NO EVENING SERVICE	
8 Jan	DBC FOCUS SERVICE - FRENZ	M Gurney, S Finnie, Rev D White
<b>'STAYING TRUE TO THE GOSPEL' SERIES FROM THE BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS</b>		
15 Jan Communion	Withholding Nothing 2 Corinthians 6:3-13	Rev Alistair Purss
22 Jan IP	Separation not Segregation 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1	Dr Alistair Mackay
29 Jan Communion	Repentance not Regret 2 Corinthians 7:2-16	Rev David White
5 Feb	DBC FOCUS SERVICE - A ROCHA	Chris Naylor
12 Feb Communion	DBC PRAISE & TESTIMONY EVENING	Rev Alistair Purss
19 Feb	Giving Generously not Grudgingly 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15	Willie Taylor
26 Feb IP Communion	Pleasing God not People 2 Corinthians 10:1-18	Rev David White
5 Mar	DBC FOCUS SERVICE - COMPASSION (Joint Churches)	Don Esson
12 Mar Communion	Faithfulness not Foolishness 2 Corinthians 11:1-33	Rev Alistair Purss
19 Mar	Strengthening not Exploiting 2 Corinthians 12:1-21	Rev Alistair Purss
26 Mar IP Communion	Building up not Tearing down 2 Corinthians 13:1-14	Rev Alistair Purss

 <b>Special Diary Dates</b>	
16th April	6.30pm Easter Celebration - with Choir
7th May	6.30pm 'Dignity - Gender Based Abuse'
4th June	10.30am Pentecost Celebration
11th June	Children's Ministry Celebration Service

## 'Love with Skin On' - A series on congregational pastoral care

Just before Christmas the BBC One Show ended their broadcast from the Carol Service at All Souls, Langham Place, London. Hugh Palmer, the Senior Minister of All Souls, was given a few moments to give a Christmas greeting live on television. Amongst other things he said this: 'Jesus didn't look down on us, He came to be with us'. This sums up the message of Christmas brilliantly! Eugene Peterson says in his paraphrase of the Bible: *'The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood'*—John 1:14 (from The Message). In other words, Jesus came alongside us!

Six weeks after Jesus was born His father and mother took him to the Temple to consecrate Him in accordance with tradition and Old Testament teaching. In Luke 2:25-30 we read the story and the reaction of Simeon and Anna; *'there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation (paraklesis) of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him'*. Simeon recognised Jesus as the 'paraklesis'.

Later in his ministry after Jesus told His disciples that He would be leaving them soon, He encouraged them with this promise: *'And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth'*—John 14:16-17. The Greek word translated "Comforter" or "Counsellor" (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7) is *parakletos*. This Counsellor, or Paraclete, is God the Holy Spirit, who has been 'called to our side'. He is not a ghost or spirit in the way that perhaps the world would see Him, he is a personal being, He is the Spirit of Jesus Christ), He is God, and He indwells every true believer.

So God comes alongside us so that we might know Him personally and His presence, power and help in our lives. If this is what God does for us, what ought we to do for one another, for others? This is a very good question when it comes to pastoral care in the local church. Yet so many of us get it wrong when it comes to our understanding of pastoral care. We ask; "Who's going to care for me"? This is the wrong question to ask! The right question to ask is; "Who can I care for"? This is consistent with the character of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Pastoral care must be theologically grounded! Church and life do not work for us when we ask the wrong question concerning pastoral care!

The Pastors, the Deacons and the Ministry Leaders ought to do the pastoral care in the church! Of course they should but this is not the whole picture. Every member pastoral care in the local church MUST involve every member! In 2 Corinthians 1:4 it says: *'He (God) comes alongside (parakaleo) us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, He brings us alongside (parakaleo) someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there (paraklesis) for that person just as God was there (parakaleo) for us'* (The Message). 'Parakaleo' is a verb, an active word, coming alongside others involves action!

During this teaching series we will learn all about the kind of caring I have just described and we will discover that creating and building a caring church begins with YOU!

## 'Staying True to the Gospel' - A series from 2 Corinthians

The title of this series encapsulates in five words my concern for the Christian Church in the UK today. Never has the gospel been under so much threat in my life time than it is right now. Some of the threats are obvious, others are more subtle but just as deadly. In the drive for inclusivity many churches are losing their true identity. Many churches today accept and teach that marriage between two people of the same sex and marriage between a man and a woman is equally acceptable in God's eyes. Of course all people are made in the image of God and should be valued whatever the colour of their skin, social standing or sexual orientation. No human being should have to put up with bullying, prejudice or rejection of any kind either inside or outside the church. However this does not mean that all human behaviour is acceptable to God. All sexual immorality whether heterosexual or homosexual is hurtful, harmful and de-humanizing.

There are many harmful trends developing within the church in the UK in relation to Christian discipleship, worship and ministry. The use of spiritual gifts which elevates people rather than glorifying God. The worship leader, the Bible teacher, the Pastor, the Church Leader who wins and gains followers, then builds a platform for themselves through which they influence and shape people, but rather than equipping them to be spiritually mature and discerning, they create spiritual dependents not Christ followers.

Many churches are teaching a Christian discipleship that promotes and promises health, wealth and prosperity. Give us your money and God will make you wealthy. They teach "You have a right to be healthy because Christ took all your sicknesses upon himself on the cross so that you might live sickness free"! Of course God provides and heals but He does not promise us health, wealth and prosperity as the world understands these things.

Paul writes second Corinthians from a context of this kind of trouble. In staying true to the gospel Paul suffers terribly. In chapter 1:8 he says: "We despaired even of life." In chapter 11:23, 27 he says: "I have experienced labours, imprisonments, beatings, stoning, shipwreck, sleepless nights, hunger, thirst, cold and exposure." So much for a stress free, pain free, 'health and prosperity' Christian life! In chapter 11:28 Paul says, "Apart from such external things there is the daily pressure, tribulation, suffering and trouble upon me of concern for all the churches."

John MacArthur says; "You see people inflicted much more pain than rocks, whips and sticks. People had the capability to hurt and wound, disappoint and disillusion. The real trouble for Paul was the trouble of trying to deal with the churches. With the Corinthian church as with some others, but particularly with the Corinthian church, he had to face rebellion, disloyalty, dishonesty, immorality, unfaithfulness, inadequate help, ineptness, ignorance, pride, at all levels". Second Corinthians is a severe letter! Paul is not reluctant to identify, expose and speak into areas of bad human behaviour and false teaching. Neither should we!

I cannot think that I have 'whet your appetite' for this series, in fact, I may have achieved the opposite! Don't be too hasty though, there will be plenty to encourage you. The message of second Corinthians is a severe one but a necessary one, it's compassionate and corrective and it encourages and exhorts. In the face of big challenges, false teachers,

personal opposition and suffering Paul 'stays true to the gospel'. He encourages us to do the same! He exhorts us to hold nothing back from God and to remain faithful to Him and His Word.

## 'The Time has Come' - A series from John 13-21

Easter is a time to reflect and think about the purpose for which Jesus came. Shortly after he was born Jesus' mother and father took him to the Temple to be consecrated. In recognising Jesus as the promised one from God Simeon spoke these words to Mary; "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too" (Luke 2:33-34). Even at such an early stage God was pointing Mary towards Jerusalem and to the death of her son. But when would this time come? When would the hour come for Jesus to lay down his life on the cross?

In John's gospel the theme of 'Jesus hour' is a prominent one. The word hour in Greek sometimes refers to a literal period of time, for example sixty minutes. However 'Jesus hour' has a much broader meaning in that it metaphorically refers to the climax of Jesus earthly life and ministry, his death and resurrection and also his glorification (John 17:1).

Very early in Jesus' ministry he told his mother, "my time has not yet come" (John 2:4) and he is recorded saying the same again in John 7:6. When people tried to seize and kill Jesus because of his teaching, they were unable to do so because 'His time had not yet come' (John 7:30) and again when He was teaching in the Temple, no one could seize him because 'His time had not yet come' (John 8:20).

In the gospel of John we are told that Jesus anticipated the time and hour of his death and resurrection. Jesus, said to the Samaritan woman at the well; "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming" (John 4:21). Again to the same woman He said; "But the hour is coming" (John 4:23). In John 5:28 Jesus spoke of the life he would give, "Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will bear his voice".

Later in John's gospel (12:23, 27) Jesus predicts his own death when he said; "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified...Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—Father, save me from this hour? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour". What astounding words from Jesus which speak about why he had come. In the very next chapter at the beginning of the Last Supper (13:1) it says, "His hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father". Similarly, in the prayer Jesus addresses to the Father at the end of the Last Supper, he begins, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you" (17:1).

During this short series we will follow Jesus all the way from the Last Supper in the Upper Room, to Jerusalem and the Cross. The Apostle Paul says in Romans 5:6-8; "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us".

We will complete our series on Easter Sunday by celebrating Christ's triumph over sin, death and the grave and think about His words of renewal and commission to Peter when He said to him, 'Follow me' (John 21:19).



## Dumfries Baptist Church Jan - Mar 2017 PROGRAMME



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### BAPTISM/MEMBERSHIP

If you'd like to be baptised or would like to find out more about baptism and/or church membership, please speak to Alistair Purss or David White.