

## Morning Services 10.30am

At Dumfries High School

| Date   | Subject   | Speaker             |
|--|---|---------------------|
| <b>'RAISED UP' - STUDIES FROM THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH</b>     |   |                     |
| 1 Oct<br>Communion   | Nehemiah cares for people - Ch 5                        | Rev Colin Mutch     |
| 8 Oct IP   | Nehemiah completes the task given to him - Ch 6:15-7:73 | Pastor Gordon Weir  |
| 15 Oct<br>Communion  | Nehemiah directs people to the word of God - Ch 8-10    | Rev Deans Buchanan  |
| 22 Oct   | DBC All Age Service                                     | Pastor David Childs |
| 29 Oct<br>Communion  | Nehemiah keeps going - Ch 11-13                         | Rev Alistair Purss  |
| 5 Nov<br>Communion   | Resilience to run the race (1)                          | Rev Alistair Purss  |
| <b>'A CALL TO PRAYER' - STUDIES ON THE PRAYERS OF PAUL</b> |   |                     |
| 12 Nov IP  | Praying along with Paul<br>Romans 11:33-36              | Rev David White     |
| 19 Nov<br>Communion  | <b>DBC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION</b>                      | Eddie Lyle          |
| 26 Nov   | Praying along with Paul<br>Ephesians 3:15-23            | Rev Alistair Purss  |
| 3 Dec<br>Communion   | Praying along with Paul<br>Philippians 1:9-11           | Rev Ian Gall        |
| 10 Dec IP  | Praying along with Paul<br>Colossians 1:3-14            | Rev Deans Buchanan  |
| 17 Dec   | DBC ALL AGE 'DISCOVERERS<br>NATIVITY SERVICE'           | Andy Feather        |
| 24 Dec   | DBC ALL AGE<br>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE                    | Rev David White     |
| 31 Dec<br>Communion  | Praying along with Paul<br>Philemon 4-7                 | Rev Alistair Purss  |

### Special Diary Dates

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 26-27th Oct | Scottish Baptist Assembly at Motherwell     |
| 19th Nov    | DBC Anniversary Celebration with Eddie Lyle |
| 29th Nov    | AGM @ 7pm                                   |
| 24th Dec    | All Age Christingle Service @ 5pm           |
| 25th Dec    | Christmas Day Celebration 10.30-11.15am     |

## Evening Service 6.30pm

Newall Terrace

| Date   | Subject  | Speaker             |
|--|--|---------------------|
| 1 Oct  | Praise & Testimony evening   | Rev David White     |
| <b>'GOD FIRST' - STUDIES FROM THE BOOK OF HAGGAI</b>       |  |                     |
| 8 Oct<br>Communion   | The priority of God's work - 1:1-15  | Rev David White     |
| 15 Oct   | The purity of God's workers - 2:1-19   | Rev Deans Buchanan  |
| 22 Oct IP<br>Communion                                     | The promise given to God's workers<br>2:20-23                                      | Pastor David Childs |
| 29 Oct   | DBC Praise & Testimony Evening   | Rev Alistair Purss  |
| 5 Nov  | Resilience to run the race (2)   | Rev Alistair Purss  |
| <b>'A CALL TO PRAYER' - STUDIES ON THE PRAYERS OF PAUL</b> |  |                     |
| 12 Nov<br>Communion  | Praying along with Paul<br>Ephesians 1:15-23                                       | Rev Alistair Purss  |
| 19 Nov   | <b>DBC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION</b>   | Eddie Lyle          |
| 26 Nov IP<br>Communion                                     | Praying along with Paul<br>Philippians 1:3-6                                       | Rev David White     |
| 3 Dec  | DBC FOCUS SERVICE<br>BUS ASSEMBLY UPDATE   | Rev Alistair Purss  |
| 10 Dec<br>Communion  | Praying along with Paul<br>1 Thessalonians 1:2-3                                   | Dr Alistair Mackay  |
| 17 Dec   | Christmas Carol Service with Choir   | Rev Alistair Purss  |
| 24 Dec IP  | DBC ALL AGE CHRISTINGLE SERVICE<br>At 5pm  | Rev Alistair Purss  |
| 31 Dec   | A short time of reflection & prayer.<br>Praying along with Paul<br>Romans 16:25-27 | Rev David White     |

### Important Contact Details

|                |                          |              |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Alistair Purss | Senior Pastor            | 07882698428  |
| David White    | Associate Pastor         | 07476379865  |
| Andy Feather   | Youth & Community Worker | 07889900850  |
| Church Office  | Mon—Fri am               | 01387 268926 |
| Lesley Mackay  | Church Secretary         | 01387 247456 |
| Ian Penn       | Treasurer                | 01387 263242 |

## 'Raised Up' - Studies from the book of Nehemiah

How do you feel and act when you become aware of the suffering of others? What about people suffering because of illness, loss, poverty or injustice - do you feel compassion for such people? What about people who are suffering because of their own bad choices - do you feel compassion for such people? If we're honest, perhaps we find it easier to have compassion for the first rather than the second example of people!

Does our compassion translate into action? It did for Nehemiah, he helped those in the second category: people who had made bad choices and were suffering the consequences. Nehemiah had compassion and did something to help a group of people who perhaps in some people's eyes did not deserve it, but who needed someone to act on their behalf and help to 'raise them up'. I thank God for those who have shown me compassion and helped to raise me up when I have suffered because of my bad choices!

Nehemiah was comfortable and relatively well off. he had a good and secure job as cupbearer to King Artaxerxes. He enjoyed a position of honour and influence. Suddenly into the midst of his comfortable lifestyle, Nehemiah received news that made him uncomfortable! His brother contacted him to tell him about the terrible ruin and destruction of Jerusalem and how his very own people were discouraged and dismayed. God's people had been suffering because of their own disobedience and sin against God. God had told them to sort out their ways but they failed to do so and, as a direct result of their own bad choices, were carried off to Babylon and into exile. It would appear that their time of judgement and exile was coming to an end and that God was going to bring his people back home to Jerusalem.

Nehemiah was instrumental in helping God's people to restore their broken city. Although he was not directly involved or responsible for what had happened to his people, he took personal responsibility and identified himself with his people and their sin. He prayed and interceded for his people and took their backsliding to his own heart, repenting and asking God for forgiveness and restoration. He prayed that God would give him favour with the King to get permission and receive all the provisions he would need to, literally, raise up the city of Jerusalem from ruin and restore its people.

Without a shadow of a doubt Nehemiah is one of the most remarkable characters recorded in the Bible. He was selfless in his concern for his people, put himself at risk for the sake of his people, suffered fierce opposition in helping his people and eventually succeeded in fulfilling the call that God gave him to raise up a city and its people! Nehemiah's trust and confidence in God and his perseverance are a great example to us all. The book of Nehemiah is a remarkable account of what one person can achieve under God to raise up a whole nation!

## 'God First' - Studies from the book of Haggai

God's people had been in exile in Babylon, but now some of them were beginning to head back to Jerusalem. The first priority for these people was to rebuild the Temple which Neduchadnezzar had destroyed with fire. Why was the rebuilding of the Temple such a priority? The Temple in ancient times represented the presence of God with his people so rebuilding the Temple served as an outward sign of the people's devotion to God and their desire to put Him first. It was also a sign to the nations around that God was back in town!

The people of God had ended up in Babylon because they failed to put God first in their lives. The direct consequence of their sin, disobedience and rebellion against God was a life of exile away from their own land.. Therefore you would think that these people would be so thankful and delighted to be returning to their own land in Jerusalem that they would prioritise and get on with what God had called them to do. Not so!

When they returned to Jerusalem they prioritised themselves - they put themselves first. They focused on their own needs and left the rebuilding of the Temple for another time! This is what they actually said; *'The time has not yet come for the Lord's house to be built'* - 1:2. It would seem that they think they know better than God, the very attitude that led to them going into exile is still alive and well! God responds to his people by sending them Haggai the prophet. Haggai does not hold anything back from God's people and in a very down to earth way tells them to get their priorities sorted out and to begin by putting God first.

It would appear that the majority of the people believe that the Temple should be built at some point—but not now! They are distracted by other things, like rebuilding their lives, families, careers and homes in Jerusalem; and why not, this is important after all! There is a problem however. They are putting so much time, effort, energy, expertise and whatever money they have into rebuilding their own lives, that they have nothing left to rebuild the Temple. In fact they have become so focussed on themselves that though they have much, they want more and the more they get the more they want, and the more they have the less they are happy and satisfied by it!

God speaks right into this lifestyle and says; *'Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it." This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honoured," says the LORD. "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the LORD Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house' -1:5-9.*

What does putting God first mean for us today, both individually and corporately as a church? How would this affect our lifestyles? What lessons can we learn from the prophecy of Haggai that will encourage and enable us to live by God's priorities?

## 'A Call to Prayer' - A series on the prayers of the Apostle Paul

The prayers of Paul are a compelling and challenging study. Always Christ centred, they are full of care for the personal spiritual growth and blessing of Christian believers and concern for the unity, witness and gospel effectiveness of the local and universal church. Paul's prayers are all-encompassing in their focus.

Don Carson wrote a book on Paul's prayers entitled; 'A Call to Spiritual Reformation - Priorities from Paul and His Prayers'. Carson says that it is good for us to study Paul's prayers "to find out exactly what it is he asks God for on their [the people he prays for] behalf, and compare the results with what we normally ask for" - So, what do we normally ask for when we pray?

This series of studies is not going to be focussing on the where and how of prayer. I am not suggesting that there is no benefit in thinking about these two aspects, but at the end of the day we ought not to be overly concerned with the place or venue we pray, the position we adopt when we pray, the method we use when we pray or the length of prayer we pray. I cannot think that God is bothered about any of these things—I think God is more concerned about the state of our heart when we pray, and what drives us to pray and what the content of our prayers are—what do you think?

This series is going to focus on Paul's prayers as an example for us to follow. I have already mentioned about Paul's prayers being Christ centred, full of care for the personal spiritual growth and blessing of Christian believers and concern for the unity, witness and gospel effectiveness of the local and universal church. I would like to suggest three further important points which characterised Paul's prayers and which undergird this sermon series, they are: Good Theology, Gratitude and Thankfulness, Growth and Transformation.

Good Theology - *'Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and (a) knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsellor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen'* -Romans 11:33-36.

Gratitude and Thankfulness - *'For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength'* -Ephesians 1:15-19.

Growth and Transformation - *'And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God'* -Philippians 1:9-11.

May we all hear the call to prayer!



## Dumfries Baptist Church Oct – Dec 2017 PROGRAMME



Newall Terrace, Dumfries DG1 1LW  
Phone: 01387 268926  
[www.dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk)  
Scottish Charity No. 21258

### 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.