

**Morning Services 10.30am**  
At Dumfries High School

Date	Subject	Speaker
<b>'A COMMUNITY WITH VISION' - STUDIES ON DBC'S VISION</b>		
7 Jan Communion	'Created To Worship'	Rev Alistair Purss
14 Jan IP All Age Inc	Annual Covenant and Commission Service - 'Commissioned To Reach'	Rev Alistair Purss
21 Jan Communion	'Compelled To Serve'	Rev Alistair Purss
<b>'A COMMUNITY WITH VALUES' - STUDIES ON DBC'S VALUES</b>		
28 Jan All Age Inc	The Value Of Commitment	Rev David White
4 Feb Communion	The Value Of Love	Rev Alistair Purss
11 Feb IP All Age Inc	The Value Of Integrity	Rev David White
18 Feb Communion	The Value Of Inclusion	Rev Alistair Purss
25 Feb All Age Inc	The Value Of Service	Rev David White
4 Mar	Guest Service	Peter Maiden
11 Mar IP	ALL AGE MOTHERS DAY SERVICE	Andy Feather
18 Mar Communion	<b>THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT NEWALL TERRACE</b>	Rev Alistair Purss & Rev David White
<b>'THE CROSS OR THE CROWD'</b>		
25 Mar All Age Inc	The Crowd With False Beliefs And Expectations - Matthew 21	Rev Alistair Purss

 **Special Diary Dates**

18th March	Final morning service at Newall Terrace
25th March	First service in Dumfries Baptist Church Centre
Saturday 12th May	Dumfries Baptist Church Centre Opening Dedication Service @ 2pm with Peter Maiden and Rev Alan Donaldson
Sunday 13th May	Dedication Service for church family @10.30am

**Evening Service 6.30pm**  
Newall Terrace

Date	Subject	Speaker
7 Jan	DBC FOCUS SERVICE - GIDEONS	DBC Folks
<b>'OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS'- A SERIES FROM THE BOOK OF JUDGES</b>		
14 Jan Communion	A generation who dropped the faith baton - 1:1-2:5	Rev Alistair Purss
21 Jan	A generation of degeneration - 2:6-3:6	Dr Alistair Mackay
28 Jan IP Communion	God sends Othniel, Ehud and Shamgar - 3:7-31	Willie Taylor
4 Feb	DBC FOCUS SERVICE - ALBANIA	Janet Derby
11 Feb Communion	God sends Deborah - 4:1-5:31	Rev Alistair Purss
18 Feb	God sends Gideon - 6:1-8:35	Rev Alistair Purss
25 Feb IP Communion	God sends Abimelech, Tola and Jair - 10:6-12:15	Rev Alistair Purss
4 Mar	DBC FOCUS SERVICE - OM/WORLD MISSION	Peter Maiden
11 Mar Communion	God sends Samson - 13:1-16:31	Dr Alistair Mackay
18 Mar	A generation of darkness and depravity - Chapters 17-21	Willie Taylor
<b>'THE CROSS OR THE CROWD'</b>		
25 Mar IP Communion	The Crowd That Condemns And Scoffs - Matthew 27:11-31	Rev Alistair Purss

**Important Contact Details**

Alistair Purss	Senior Pastor	07882698428
David White	Associate Pastor	07476379865
Andy Feather	Youth & Community Worker	07889900850
Church Office	Mon-Fri 9am-1pm	01387 268926
Lesley Mackay	Church Secretary	01387 247456
Ian Penn	Treasurer	01387 263242

**'A Community with Vision' - A series of studies exploring the vision of DBC**

In Acts 2:42-47 the Bible gives us a blueprint for church life. It describes the priorities, practices and principles that shaped the church in the first century. At Dumfries Baptist Church we are committed to this same vision of church. So what is our vision? Firstly, we believe that we are '*Created to Worship*' the one true and living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our worship includes the whole of our lived experience within and out with the context of church.

Secondly, we believe that we are '*Commissioned to Reach*' all those who do not yet know Christ, believing that salvation comes through hearing the Gospel proclaimed and by witnessing to the reality of God's incarnational love, lived out in our lives on a daily basis. Within the church we are committed to genuine Biblical Christian fellowship and discipleship, leading to maturity; and to the resourcing and enabling of local, national and worldwide mission.

Thirdly, we believe that we are '*Compelled to Serve*', which includes everyone who considers Dumfries Baptist Church to be their spiritual home and also all our friends and contacts within the community and beyond. This service will be costly, involving time, money and effort as we seek to support and respect one another's needs, whilst reaching out with the same practical love to those living and working in the geographical areas in which God has placed us, corporately and individually.

It's important to know what the vision of DBC is and be wholeheartedly committed to fulfilling this vision. Unfortunately vision fades and we can easily forget and lose our focus. So what better way is there to begin our teaching programme in this momentous year in the life of our church than to remind us of our God given vision. We will soon be moving into our new church centre in an area of Dumfries where there is no active church community, let's make sure we all remember our vision and live out what it means to be '*Created to Worship*', '*Commissioned to Reach*' and '*Compelled to Serve*'.

**'A Church with Values' - A series of studies exploring the values of DBC**

We have clear Biblical values at DBC because we believe that our attitudes and behaviours should be consistent with our beliefs. We do not live by the policy of 'do as I say not as I do'. We seek to 'practise what we preach'. We want to live up to our Christian calling as followers of Jesus Christ and to follow His example through our five values:

*Commitment ~ Love ~ Integrity ~ Inclusion ~ Service*

*Commitment* - We trust in and are committed to following Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord of our lives. We seek to follow and

live out the teaching of the Bible in all our relationships and responsibilities at home with our families, at work with our employers and colleagues, in the world as citizens and as a part of Dumfries Baptist Church.

*Love* – We seek to love God first and to love others. With the love of Christ in our hearts through the Holy Spirit we are self-denying, self-giving and self-sacrificing in our love towards God and others.

*Integrity* – We seek to be honest and truthful in our speech, which means we do not lie or deceive others. We do not gossip or slander, which means we are not two-faced and therefore can be trusted. We are conscientious and hardworking in all areas of life and responsibility, which means we are dependable and reliable.

*Inclusion* – We look for and value God's image in all people through their personalities, gifts and abilities. We seek to welcome, care for and serve all people because they matter to God and therefore to us.

*Service* – We seek to serve God first and then people and their genuine needs. We seek to wisely steward and use our time, gifts, resources and money to glorify God and meet the needs of others.

### **'Opportunity Knocks' – A series of studies from the book of Judges**

I don't believe it's an exaggeration to say that we are living in the 'days of the judges'! In the book of Judges it says that *'everyone did what was right in their own eyes'* or as the NIV puts it; *'everyone did as they saw fit'* - Judges 17:6, 18:1; 21:25. This is a statement of truth and fact in Scotland today.

God's OT people had enjoyed an amazing period of blessing under the leadership of Joshua. They had realised the promise of God and were inhabiting the land he had given to them. Joshua's leadership had been instrumental in helping God's people, but if they were to prosper in the land God had given to them then they needed to follow Joshua's example – *"Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord"* – Joshua 24:14-15.

When I think of the history of mankind it's like a pendulum. The pendulum swings back and forth away from God and then toward God. Right now in Scotland society is moving further and further away from God and His truth. The mantra of this shift away from God is *'do as you see fit'*. Like the times of the Judges the sobering truth is that this is happening amongst God's Church too, as we abandon God's truth revealed to us in God's Word and do as we see fit!

At the heart of this shift away from God is the erosion of family life and relationships. This erosion can be seen through the tampering with and changing of the institution of marriage, unhealthy state interference in parenting, teaching our children

from infancy as part of their school education that they are neither male nor female but can choose whatever gender they like, allowing our children to go hungry so much so that our schools are having to feed some children breakfast and lunch and the ever widening gap between the rich and the poor, and so the list goes on! This is leading to a total collapse of life as God created and intended it to be. We are raising a whole generation today who will struggle to make sense of and live life in the future. Society in Scotland is setting itself up for catastrophic failure.

However history tells us that the pendulum will come swinging back the other way because people will realise that things are not as good as they thought they would be when *'everyone does as they see fit'*! The pendulum will swing back and there will be an opportunity for the Christian church to proclaim, live and serve the gospel of Jesus Christ in a way that will greatly impact society and draw men, women and children back to God. God needs Deborahs and Gideons today! Men and women who will stand up for the truth of God and fearlessly proclaim it and live it out.

The words of Joshua need to be heeded by each one of us; *'Fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness – choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve'*. May our answer be a resounding, *'as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord'*.

### **'The Cross or the Crowd' – A short series for Easter**

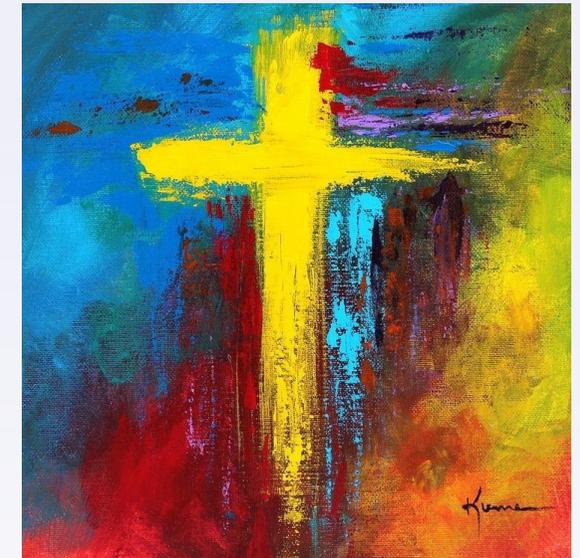
The cross is where Christ obeyed His Father and took on our sin, suffered and died our death that we might receive eternal life. While everyone abandoned Christ, He did not abandon us. While others followed the crowd and cried out against Christ, Christ himself took up the cross and prayed *'Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing'* – Luke 23:34

The challenge of this short Easter teaching series is this; who will we identify ourselves with? The cross or the crowd? For the Christian the challenge of Easter is a discipleship challenge! Coming to the cross for salvation results in taking up the cross in Christian discipleship. It's about obeying our Father in heaven and seeking to please him in all things, just like Christ did. It's about following Christ not the crowd like his first disciples did when they abandoned him!

The words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer sum up this series well; *"The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ-suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world. It is that dying of the old man which is the result of his encounter with Christ... When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate... Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy for which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him"*.



## **Dumfries Baptist Church Jan – Mar 2018 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.