

Morning Services 10.30am

Date	Subject	Speaker
1 Jul	DBC ALL AGE SUMMER MISSION SERVICE	Rev Alistair Purss & Andy Feather
8 Jul IP	DBC ALL AGE SUMMER MISSION SERVICE	Rev Alistair Purss & Andy Feather
'THE KING'S SPEECH'- Studies on The Sermon on the Mount from the gospel of Matthew		
15 Jul Communion	The surpassing righteousness of Christ 5:17-20	Rev Alistair Purss
22 Jul All Age Inc	The sadness of divorce 5:31-32	Rev Alistair Purss
29 Jul Communion	Commissioning Service for Joy Ransom	Rev Alistair Purss
5 Aug Communion	The secret giver 6:1-4	Rev Alistair Purss
12 Aug IP All Age Inc	The security of faith 6:19-34	Rev Alistair Purss
19 Aug All Age Inc	DBC ALL AGE BACK TO SCHOOL SERVICE	Andy Feather
26 Aug Communion	The small gate and narrow road 7:13-14	Rev David White
2 Sept Communion	The secure foundation 7:24-29	Allan McKinnon
'THAT'S LIFE' - A SERIES FROM THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES		
9 Sept IP All Age Inc	Life's like that 1:1-11	Rev David White
16 Sept Communion	Chasing the wind 1:12-2:26	Rev Gavin Hunter
23 Sept All Age Inc	Time and eternity 3:1-22	Rev David White
30 Sept Communion	All the lonely people 4:1-16	Rev Alistair Purss
 Special Diary Dates		
7th October	DBC All Age Harvest Celebration - Tearfund	
4th November	Persecuted church Sunday - Africa Inland Mission	
18th November	DBC Anniversary Celebration	

Evening Service 6.30pm

Date	Subject	Speaker
1 Jul Communion	DBC SUMMER MISSION EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE	Rev Alistair Purss
8 Jul Communion	DBC SUMMER MISSION WORSHIP AND TESTIMONY EVENING	Rev Alistair Purss
'THE KING'S SPEECH'- Studies on The Sermon on the Mount from the gospel of Matthew		
15 Jul	The sanctity of marriage 5:27-30	Rev Alistair Purss
22 Jul IP Communion	Speaking truth and saying no to revenge 5:33-42	Rev Alistair Purss
29 Jul	The sanctity of life 5:21-26	Dr Alistair Mackay
5 Aug	The source of power and provision 6:5-18	Rev Alistair Purss
12 Aug Communion	The stupidity of judging others 7:1-6	Willie Taylor
19 Aug Communion	The seekers joy 7:7-12	Rev Alistair Purss
26 Aug IP	Showing the right fruit 7:15-23	Dr Alistair Mackay
THE ALPHA COURSE @ DBCC - A SERIES ON DISCOVERING MORE ABOUT CHRISTIANITY		
2 Sept	Is there more to life than this?	Host: Rev David White
9 Sept Communion	Who is Jesus?	Host: Rev David White
16 Sept	Why did Jesus die?	Host: Rev David White
23 Sept IP Communion	How can I have faith?	Host: Rev Alistair Purss
30 Sept IP	Why and how do I pray?	Host: 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 9am-1pm	01387 268926
Lesley Mackay	Church Secretary	01387 247456
Ian Penn	Treasurer	01387 263242

"The King's Speech" – Studies on 'The Sermon on the Mount' from the gospel of Matthew

St Augustine wrote a commentary on the 'Sermon on the Mount' in AD393. At the beginning of his commentary he says; "Anyone who piously and earnestly ponders the 'Sermon on the Mount', as we read it in the Gospel of Matthew, I believe he will find therein the perfect standard of the Christian life". I like this quote from St Augustine because what he says points us away from self-effort and self-righteousness to Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ alone is the perfect standard and righteousness of God. Jesus Christ in His life is our perfect example to follow and in His death and resurrection is our perfect righteousness to be received through repentance and faith for the forgiveness of sin. Why? He fulfilled all the righteous requirements of God's law perfectly – this is impossible for us to do! The Bible tells us that even the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law could not do this!

I think Eugene Peterson in his paraphrase of the Bible unpacks these verses even more clearly than the NIV does. *"Don't suppose for a minute that I have come to demolish the Scriptures—either God's Law or the Prophets. I'm not here to demolish but to complete. I am going to put it all together, pull it all together in a vast panorama. God's Law is more real and lasting than the stars in the sky and the ground at your feet. Long after stars burn out and earth wears out, God's Law will be alive and working. Trivialize even the smallest item in God's Law and you will only have trivialized yourself. But take it seriously, show the way for others, and you will find honour in the kingdom. Unless you do far better than the Pharisees in the matters of right living, you won't know the first thing about entering the kingdom"* – Matthew 5:17-20 from the Message.

The power of Jesus' 'Sermon on the Mount' is the fact that He fulfilled His own teaching. Jesus said on a number of occasions that "the Kingdom of God is near". What He was saying is, I am here, so the Kingdom of God is here! To be part of God's Kingdom we must accept and trust in Jesus Christ by faith. It is His perfect sinless life that paid the ransom for all who break God's law.

In his book on the 'Sermon on the Mount' Rob Warner says that he found his study both exhilarating and exacting. Rob goes on to say about Jesus' sermon, "In the extravagant simplicity of the ideals he unreservedly champions, in the noble demands of purity of heart and self-giving love, to drink in Jesus' teaching is to savour a foretaste of heaven. The 'Sermon on the Mount' is a sacred summit in the mountain range of Scripture, where the eternal values of the kingdom of heaven press closely upon us. At the same time, extended study of the 'Sermon on the Mount' has proved excruciatingly exacting. With every phrase, every Messianic intensification, comes a fresh and often painful need for heart-searching and self-examination. If the 'Sermon on the

Mount' is the Everest of discipleship, then with every repeated reading this follower of Jesus has realised ever more clearly how he continues to stumble in the foothills, with a long ascent left to travel".

I trust that as we seek to follow Jesus' example and respond to the practical challenge of the 'Sermon on the Mount' we too will find it to be exhilarating and exacting. This great sermon must be worked out in our lives. It was D. H. Lawrence who once said that, "the followers of Jesus would have to look a lot more like their Master if His teaching was going to be taken seriously in the modern world"...Indeed so!

"That's Life" – Studies from the book of Ecclesiastes

Meaningless! Meaningless! Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless! – Ecclesiastes 1:2.

Derek Tidball in his book on Ecclesiastes quotes Francis Schaeffer who once said, 'There is a time, and ours is such a time, when a negative message is needed before anything positive can begin...people often say, "What would you do if you met a really modern man on a train and you had an hour to talk to him about the gospel?" I would spend forty-five minutes on the negative, to show him his real dilemma – to show him that he is more dead than even he thinks he is! Then I would take ten or fifteen minutes to tell him the gospel. Unless he understands what is wrong, he will not be ready to listen to, and understand, the positive.'

Schaeffer spoke these words into the age he lived in, personally I think they are prophetic words for the age we live in today. Yet there are many Christians and churches who are not prepared to follow Schaeffer's counsel! We want to give good news about God's love and forgiveness without firstly explaining the bad news about our sin and rebellion against him! If people do not understand WHY they need God they will end up thinking that they can live their life without him and this is exactly what is happening in our world today.

The message of the book of Ecclesiastes is a very positive one but in order to understand how positive, we need to be prepared to hear the bad news about our humanity and the world we live in. The book of Ecclesiastes faces us up with the truth about our humanity and the world we live in! *'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven'* but without God everything is ultimately meaningless, does not last and eventually dies! Whereas with God, *'everything he does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so men and women may revere him'* – Ecclesiastes 3. It surely

follows, therefore, that we ought to seek after God and find out more about His truth and His ways?

Everything, you see, matters! The book ends with the reason why everything matters; *'For God will bring every deed into judgement, including every hidden thing, whether is it good or evil'* – Ecclesiastes 12:14. As Derek Kidner says, "On this rock we can be destroyed: but it is a rock, not quicksand. There is the chance to build".

During this series we will be reminded of the importance of building our lives upon the upright and true words of the Shepherd – Ecclesiastes 12:11. It's good to know that God is Shepherd! Now the shepherd's goad can sometimes be painful! In Bible times it was a pointy stick used to warn sheep of danger and get them back on track! The truth of God's Word may sometimes be challenging and painful but it's ultimately good news for those who desire to follow the Shepherd. God, of course, is ultimately the Good Shepherd, the God who became flesh and made his dwelling among us and the only one in whom we will find what lasts...what is eternal and in fact this is what we were originally created for by our Creator – Ecclesiastes 3:11.

The Alpha Course – Exploring the Meaning of Life

The Alpha course is an evangelistic course which seeks to introduce the basics of the Christian faith through a series of talks and group discussions. It is described by its organisers as "an opportunity to explore the meaning of life".

The Alpha Course is a great encouragement to Christians in that it reminds us about the wonder of the gospel and what this means for our daily lives. It is also a wonderful opportunity to invite family and friends to come along and explore the Christian faith.

This is a great opportunity for us all. Will you come along and be part of The Alpha Course? Will you invite your family and friends to come along to The Alpha Course?

Worship and Reflection

During the Alpha Course there will be a short **Worship and Reflection Service** upstairs in the board room from 5.15-5.45pm. This will include a few songs of worship, a Bible reflection and sometimes communion. This is not an alternative to Alpha but an opportunity for those who will appreciate an additional opportunity for worship or for those who genuinely cannot attend The Alpha Course.

Dumfries
Baptist Church



Worship | Reach | Serve

Dumfries Baptist Church

**July – September 2018
PROGRAMME**

explore life
faith
meaning



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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.