

# OUR PARISH NEWSLETTER



from the Reformed Presbyterian Church | Summer 2023



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## EDITORIAL

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Dear neighbours,

Churches in the Monklands are closing. That is the tragic trend across Scotland. Most people don't have time for Christianity. Perhaps it seems irrelevant or too old-fashioned. There is nothing left to do but close the doors.

With such dwindling attendances nationally you may think that our newsletter comes to try to get more people into the church - an attempt by us to gain more members (or maybe cynically, gather enough money for survival)! But we don't need more members (or money!) - God has more than well provided for us. We are seeking rather to follow the instruction of Jesus to His followers, when He said, "You received without paying; give without pay."

As a church we are not looking for **you** to give anything to **us**. Instead **we** want to give to **you**. The best thing, the most essential thing, we can give to you is the Bible's message of hope found in Jesus Christ.

It's our prayer that you read our newsletter thoughtfully and through it you may come to know the one who died for sinners.

Every blessing,  
Stephen (Minister)



@AirdrieRPCS



@AirdrieRPCChurch



## How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? (Hebrews 2:3)

If you have ever been on a plane you know that safety instructions must be given to warn us of what to do in the event of danger. Perhaps you are one of the few who listen attentively to these instructions. Most lack any interest and turn their attention elsewhere. However, it would be fair to say that if you knew that the flight would get into difficulties, you would not only heed the warnings but also diligently read the safety instructions!

The Bible is a book that gives us warnings about our soul's safety, and yet sadly many tune out and ignore its message. The central warning in Scripture is that every human is born with a sinful heart that brings forth sinful words and actions. The punishment for sin is death - physical, spiritual, and eternal. How come? Sin is rebellion against a perfect and holy God; in fact sinners are natural enemies of God. Yet God does not wish that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. Despite God's kindness many people would rather decide how to live their lives as they please. They see God's law as restrictive and so ignore it. The Bible warns us that this way is disastrous.

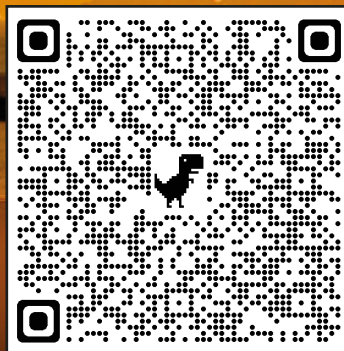


But the Bible does not just warn us of danger - it offers the way of escape. Just as on a flight the flight attendant will point out the emergency exits, so too the Bible tells us of the one way of escape from sin, its guilt, and its punishment. This escape route is Jesus Christ - God's own son. Jesus came into our world and lived among us. He never once rebelled against God but lived His life exactly as God's law requires. Further, Jesus died upon the cross to deal with sin and provide a way of escape.

The question for you is will you neglect such a great salvation? Will you ignore the warnings? Are you ignoring the escape route by thinking you can avert the disaster by yourself? Will you ignore Jesus until you have dealt with other pressing matters first? Perhaps you don't think that the warning is serious, take up God's Word and check for yourself. How shall you escape if you neglect so great a salvation?

# IS THIS AS GOOD AS IT GETS OR CAN WE HOPE FOR MORE?

**AUDIO RECORDINGS OF  
THE SERMONS FROM OUR  
RECENT MISSION ARE  
AVAILABLE ONLINE AND  
ON OUR WEBSITE**



# How did you become a Christian?



## Sam Bell

I was brought up in Glasgow and on leaving school I served an engineering apprenticeship on the Clydeside. Then at the age of 21, I joined the Merchant navy and sailed around the world for about 7 years. Towards the end of this time I met my wife, a young Airdrie woman from a Christian family. We were married in the church where she had been a regular attender with her family since childhood. Although I had never been to church before, it seemed natural to me that I too should begin attending church.

During the next 17 years attending church my experiences were that Christians were nice people and that church services varied; from being interesting, hard to understand, and sometimes quite challenging in terms of how I should live my life. However, what I heard about needing to become a Christian didn't apply to me because I was a good man, a good husband, and success, money, and power were all that really mattered in life. God, if he existed, was supposed to be a loving God. I had done many wrong things in my life, but I still considered myself to be a good man and everybody liked me (so I thought). How could God not love me, and if there was a heaven, he would surely let me in.

Then one day the Bible, which I usually found very difficult to understand, drew me up sharply. Romans chapter 3 verses 23 and 24 said, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Suddenly the fact that I had committed what the Bible called sins became real to me. I prayed, and in my mind's eye, I saw Jesus on the cross dying, but it was for me. I asked his forgiveness and believed in him as my Saviour and Lord.

Now my life has completely changed in so many wonderful ways. Now the Bible is alive to me and God's Holy Spirit testifies to me that it is true and that it contains many precious promises for my life.

Looking back this change came about by my going to church and hearing God's Word faithfully proclaimed.

# DROP-IN CAFE



From November to February we ran a weekly drop-in cafe. We wanted to help our neighbours who were struggling with the cost of living crisis by offering a warm, safe place to come into for some food or just an opportunity to sit and chat with a cup of tea or coffee. At the end of each evening we offered an optional Bible study for 30 minutes.

Two local MSPs visited our cafe to see what we were doing, and we are thankful for them helping us to promote the event. We really enjoyed meeting those of you who came. We hope to run the drop-in cafe again in the winter, God willing. Keep an eye out for the banner on our railings outside the church.

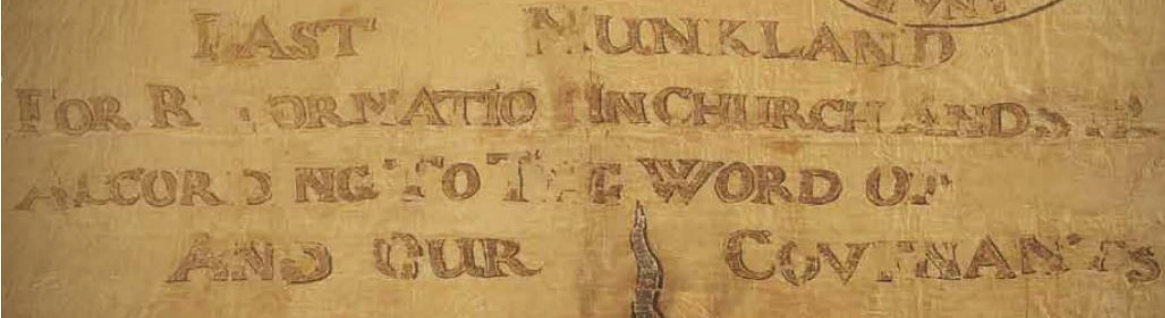




**The saying is trustworthy and  
deserving of full acceptance,  
that Christ Jesus came into the  
world to save sinners.  
(1 Timothy 1:15)**



# COVENANTERS IN MONKLANDS



If you go into Airdrie Library you can see the bloodstained flag that was carried by the Covenanters of Airdrie and its surrounding villages at the battle of Bothwell Bridge. Collectively this area was called East Monklands or New Monklands. The flag was carried by John Main, the Laird of Ballochney, and was later kept by his descendants at the Gushet House in Airdrie before being donated to Airdrie Library where it is still on display in the upstairs local history room. It says:

East Munkland  
For Reformation in Church and State  
According to the Word of God  
And our Covenants.

Airdrie and New Monkland feature prominently during the Covenanter struggle and the area suffered a lot. The Covenanters were fighting for the right to worship God the way they believed the Bible wanted them to and not the way the Stewart monarchs were forcing on them. Many Covenanters from Monklands suffered harsh persecution, and many of them fought at the large battle between the Covenanters and the Government at Bothwell Bridge on the 22nd June 1679.

Of those Monkland men who fought at Bothwell Bridge about a quarter never returned. For those that did survive and escape, going home was impossible. Troops frequently raided the town of Airdrie looking for those men and this meant having to live (sometimes for years) in the surrounding countryside in dens and caves. In many of the farms in the area the only people left to run them were the woman and children, and many of them also suffered terrible cruelty at the hands of the soldiers.



One example of the cruelty is recorded in November 1683. A group of soldiers were in the Airdrie area rounding up Covenanters suspected of being at Bothwell Bridge or even just looking for those who simply weren't attending the church to hear the curates.

They apprehended about a dozen people in the New Monkland area and carried them prisoners to Hamilton where they were held for a few days. Other Covenanters from neighbouring parishes were rounded up and joined them, the number was about 30 people. They were taken to Lanark, where they endured a horrendous night. They were confined to a small cell, unable to sit or sleep. They received no food, drink, or warmth to combat the bitter cold.

The next morning, they were to be transported to Edinburgh. Horses were obtained for this purpose. However, the soldiers in charge, particularly James Irving of Bonshaw, known for his cruelty, made the journey unbearable for the Covenanters. They removed the saddles and tied the prisoners' legs and arms together, securing them onto the horses' backs. This caused some prisoners to experience restricted blood flow in their legs. The soldiers were instructed to ride quickly and sometimes took detours of several miles, inflicting further misery on the Covenanters. The prisoners remained tied up even when the soldiers stopped at inns along the way for refreshments, with no opportunity for the Covenanters to relieve themselves.

Upon reaching Edinburgh, it was reported that some of the unfortunate prisoners were unable to stand or walk for several days due to the horrific journey.

Today it is important to remember the sacrifice of the Covenanters as they struggled for many of the freedoms that we enjoy today. Many towns throughout Scotland remember their Covenanter connections either by monuments, graves, or information boards. Airdrie is no exception. Apart from the Covenanter banner there is also an information board in Centenary Park and an image of a Covenanter outdoor worship service on the railings at the Town Cross.

Airdrie also has a Reformed Presbyterian Church. The Reformed Presbyterian Church was organised from the Covenanters and sometimes known as Cameronians as well.

For 4-11 year olds

# HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

**Monday 3rd - Friday 7th July 10am-12pm**  
at Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

Come learn about Jesus through games, crafts, songs, and stories.  
It's all completely free.

All our staff are PVG checked.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."  
(Matthew 19:14)

*Struggling with  
reading the Bible?*

Why not try...

## Let's Worship God

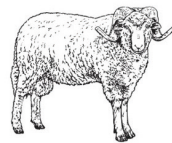
A weekly booklet to help you  
get the most from the Bible.

Read daily or download the  
notes for the week at  
**[www.LetsWorshipGod.org](http://www.LetsWorshipGod.org)**

Alternatively, get in touch  
and we will send you  
a copy each week.

[airdrierpcs@gmail.com](mailto:airdrierpcs@gmail.com)  
01236 620107

THE GOSPEL OF  
**JOHN**



Do you want a free copy  
of the Gospel of John?

Afterwards, we would  
be happy to talk about  
what you have read.

# CONVENTICLE

**WHAT?** An outdoor worship service like our Covenanter forefathers experienced

**WHERE?** Bothwell Bridge (down the steps, next to the river)

**WHEN?** Sabbath 2nd July at 2pm

All welcome

FOR CHRIST'S CROWN AND COVENANT

# It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes to support people living with cancer.

Airdrie RP Church

29th September

10am



MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT



COSTA  
COFFEE



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (262877), Scotland (SC028827) and the Isle of Man (8663). Also operating in Northern Ireland, (NI202767), Phoenix

## YOUR CHOICE: LIFE OR DEATH?



**Sunday 9th July at 6pm**  
**Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church**  
**All welcome.**

**An opportunity for questions afterwards over a cuppa.**





**Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church**  
**Come hear God's Word -**  
**It could change your life!**

**All Welcome!**

**Lord's Day (Sunday) Worship**  
**11am and 6pm**

**Weekly Bible Study Groups as announced**  
**Kids Club Fridays at 6pm (term time)**

🚩 **48 North Bridge Street, Airdrie, ML6 6NE**

☎ **01236 620107**

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