

OUR PARISH NEWSLETTER



from the Reformed Presbyterian Church | Summer 2024



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EDITORIAL

Dear neighbours,

Do you think society is headed in the right direction? Sometimes it seems that everything is in turmoil. Our political leaders in Holyrood and Westminster seem to be constantly changing – there is a lack of stability. Just as political discourse becomes more polarised so too communities are becoming more fractured, and many individuals suffer from isolation. Crime is sadly around us in our parish, including violent crime. Drug and alcohol addictions are prevalent. Families are breaking down. For many people, their sense of wellbeing is at an all-time low. The rising cost of groceries is being constantly felt as our money doesn't go as far as it used to. Increasingly more people suffer from depression. People don't feel as safe as they once did. It's not a pleasant picture.

What's the answer? There are no easy answers, but I'm convinced that the general disregard for God is part of the problem. Let me encourage you to come and visit us and hear about the hope that comes through Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Every blessing,
Stephen (Minister)



@AirdrieRPCS



@AirdrieRPCChurch



Dying Well

The Gospel of Luke records for us not only how Jesus died on the cross, but also how two others died beside him. These men were violent robbers and therefore, under the Roman law, merited the death penalty. Initially, both criminals mocked Jesus who was crucified between them. But somewhere along the way, one of these men had a change of heart. As he observed Jesus' long agonising death, and as he experienced his own mortality, he recognised that Jesus was no ordinary man. He heard the reviling that Jesus was receiving with different ears. It pained him to hear Jesus being laughed at as if he were helpless and weak.

Suddenly, he recognised that he deserved his punishment. This man knew that he was guilty of sin, not just against the Romans but against God. The wages of sin is death. He could now see that Jesus was entirely innocent – “this man has done nothing wrong!” Jesus had neither wronged the Romans nor God. What's more, he now believed that Jesus was the King of Heaven who was able to save him from his guilt and so he humbly prayed for grace – “Remember me when you come into your kingdom.” The robber knew that he was dying, but he believed there was something beyond the grave and that he needed Jesus' grace.

The good news for this individual was that Jesus was willing to answer him – “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” What a promise! What assurance! Although he was guilty, yet he would be forgiven and get to go to heaven.

Two thieves were next to Jesus’ cross, but only one thief died well. His last words were words of repentance and faith, admitting his guilt, confessing his sin, and humbly asking to be saved. The other thief saw the same suffering Saviour, had the same opportunity for mercy, for forgiveness, and for heaven, but his last recorded words were mocking Jesus, disbelieving that Jesus could save.

Benjamin Franklin once said that there were two things certain in life – death and taxes! It is an unpleasant thought, yet true that we shall all die. The circumstances of our deaths and the funeral arrangements may be different, but death is on the cards for all of us. Sooner or later, it will come. Are you prepared to die well?

GOD CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE



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



SCAN ME

How did you become a Christian?



Ian Shaw

I remember reading the story of the young lawyer who sat at his desk and had this conversation with himself. “What will I do when I finish my apprenticeship?” “Well, I will start out on my own business,” was his answer. “And what after that?” “Well, I will go on to make lots of money.” “What then?” “Then I will retire and take life easy.” “But what then?” “Well, I suppose eventually I will die.” “And what then?” It was at this point that the young lawyer realised that there was something more to life. That young lawyer stopped in his tracks and saw that the main purpose in life was not self-satisfaction but finding a life that was full of purpose. That same day the young man trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ and went on to be one of the greatest lawyers in America. Now he did eventually go on to be rich and enjoy all the good things in life, but the purpose in his life changed from pleasing himself to pleasing God and doing His will.

I suppose that the story of the young lawyer rings bells with many of us, me included. I had the ambition to get on well in life, to do well, to be prosperous, but on my terms. I was going to do this on my own and by my own strength, and I suppose that when it eventually worked out that way, I thought to myself, “I have made it!” Made what? Yes, I had a profession. Had a good salary. Could afford a nice house. But what was the purpose of all this? Merely to accumulate wealth and knowledge or was there something more to life than that?

Even with all these things, there was something lacking. What was lacking was understanding the purpose behind having them all. Then I realised that all I had, had been given to me by God. He had, even through my pride and ego, been loving and caring to me.

It wasn't that he didn't want me to have these things, but what he did want was for me to use the gifts he had given me in the first place, for his divine purposes. It was only when I got that into focus that I then came to know God in a real powerful way. God has promised, “Do it my way, and you shall be happy”. Are you happy today leading a purposeful life for the Lord Jesus Christ, or are you like the young lawyer? Well, remember the final question you must ask of yourself, “After death – what then?” God does have a purpose for your life.

'Songs of Adversity: Scottish Stories in Uncertain Times'



One of the highlights of our year was an evening of stories and singing from Scotland's past entitled Songs of Adversity: Scottish Stories for Uncertain Times. Advertised both locally and further afield, it was encouraging to have visitors from all the Scottish Reformed Presbyterian congregations as well as from other churches.

The evening looked at seven figures or groups from the Scottish Reformation and the Psalms that were significant in their lives. Mr. Jimmy Fisher, a deacon in our church and the Tour Guide for Scottish Reformation Tours (a ministry of the Scottish RP Church), told the stories of these historical figures. Dr. Timothy Duguid, also from our congregation, then led the congregation in singing eight Psalms.

Afterwards there was a time of tea and coffee and a chance to browse the bookstall provided by James A. Dickson Books. It was a wonderful evening of Christian fellowship and Psalm singing.

We hope to have a similar event in November, God willing.



**For the wages of sin is death,
but the free gift of God is eternal
life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 3:23)**



AIRDRIE.



200th Anniversary in our Church

This year is a significant milestone in the history of our congregation as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of our first minister's ordination. That not only tells you that we have been around for a long time, but it also testifies to God's faithfulness. He has given us ministers throughout our history, and we are thankful for that.

That first minister, ordained 200 years ago, was Thomas Halliday. Halliday was born in Dunscore, Dumfriesshire, in 1799. Raised by Christian parents, he was taught the Gospel by them throughout his childhood; however, he did not just blindly accept their religion as his own but was determined to be fully persuaded in his own mind. He showed a tremendous aptitude for learning right from an early age and was a diligent and hardworking student, never wasting a moment. These gifts stood him in good stead when he became a student of Divinity. Due to the lack of ministers in the Reformed Presbyterian Church at the time, Mr Halliday preached 156 sermons as a probationer and covered 3150 miles, in a day before cars and trains!

Halliday was sought after by three congregations but accepted the call to our congregation. Although there had been a Reformed Presbyterian congregation meeting in Airdrie since the late 1700s, it had struggled to get a minister and was reliant on visiting preachers, or members would have to walk to Wishaw or Glasgow to hear sermons. Halliday's ordination on

23rd August 1824 was a joyful answer to prayer. The event took place in “a field on the north side of the town” – probably somewhere not far from our current location. The fact that it was outside indicates that it must have been a very large turnout. In these days it was not uncommon for Reformed Presbyterian ministers to have outdoor services. During Halliday’s ministry he often preached to large numbers who sat upon the grass and eagerly listened to him. In his preaching he stressed the importance of the cross of Jesus Christ and showed the obligation of personal holiness. His congregation loved him dearly, not just for his preaching gifts, but also for his humility and devotion to them. He was a pastor as well as a preacher.

Early in 1826, at just 26 years of age, Halliday sadly began to show symptoms of declining health and on occasions he fainted while preaching. It was therefore necessary for him to preach while sitting down. Halliday was determined to continue declaring the good news of Jesus Christ saving sinners and exerted himself to this duty, probably to the detriment of his health.

Nevertheless, it became clear that Halliday was dying and would soon appear before his Maker. He had prepared for this day from his youth, by trusting in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Even on his death bed he was concerned about the spiritual state of his congregation and domestic servants. Regarding his impending death he told a member of the congregation, “we must not only submit, but it is our duty to submit well-pleas- edly,” showing that he accepted God’s control without grumbling.

Thomas Halliday died in the 27th year of his life to be buried in New Monklands cemetery. Two volumes of his sermons were published after his death and so, “though he died, he still speaks” (Hebrews 11:4).

Our congregation rejoices that since then God has provided us with ministers to preach the Word of God faithfully to us. Although the congregation is older, 2024 marks our 200th anniversary since Halliday’s ordination. Our current minister is our twelfth. We rejoice in God’s faithfulness. In so many ways he has shown His love to us through all these years. We plan to tell some of these stories at our anniversary exhibition later this year and to mark the occasion with a service of thanksgiving.

For 3-11 year olds

KIDS CLUB

Fridays 6-7pm

During term time 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...

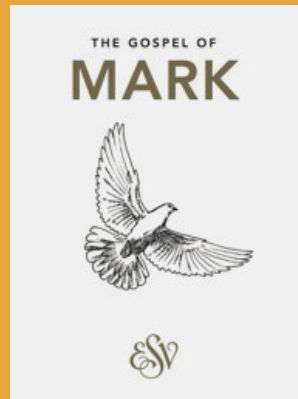
Let's Worship God

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

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

airdrierpcs@gmail.com
01236 620107



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

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

200th Anniversary

Come and join us as we celebrate
200 years of a settled ministry
at Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church
1824-2024

Saturday 7th September (10am-4pm)
Anniversary Exhibition featuring the
history of the congregation in the town.

Thursday 12th September (7pm)
Thanksgiving Service
Guest Minister, Prof. Robert McCollum
Principal of Reformed Theological College, Belfast

**JESUS CHRIST:
WHO WAS HE AND
WHY DOES IT MATTER?**

**Sunday 23rd June 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**

💻 **airdrierpcs.org**

✉ **airdrierpcs@gmail.com**